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THE

GREAT GOLD FIELDS

OF

CARIBOO;

WITH
AN AUTHENTIC DESCRIPTION, BROUGHT DOWN
TO THE LATEST PERIOD,
OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

BY

WILLIAM CAREW HAZLITT.

WITH AN ACCURATE MAP.

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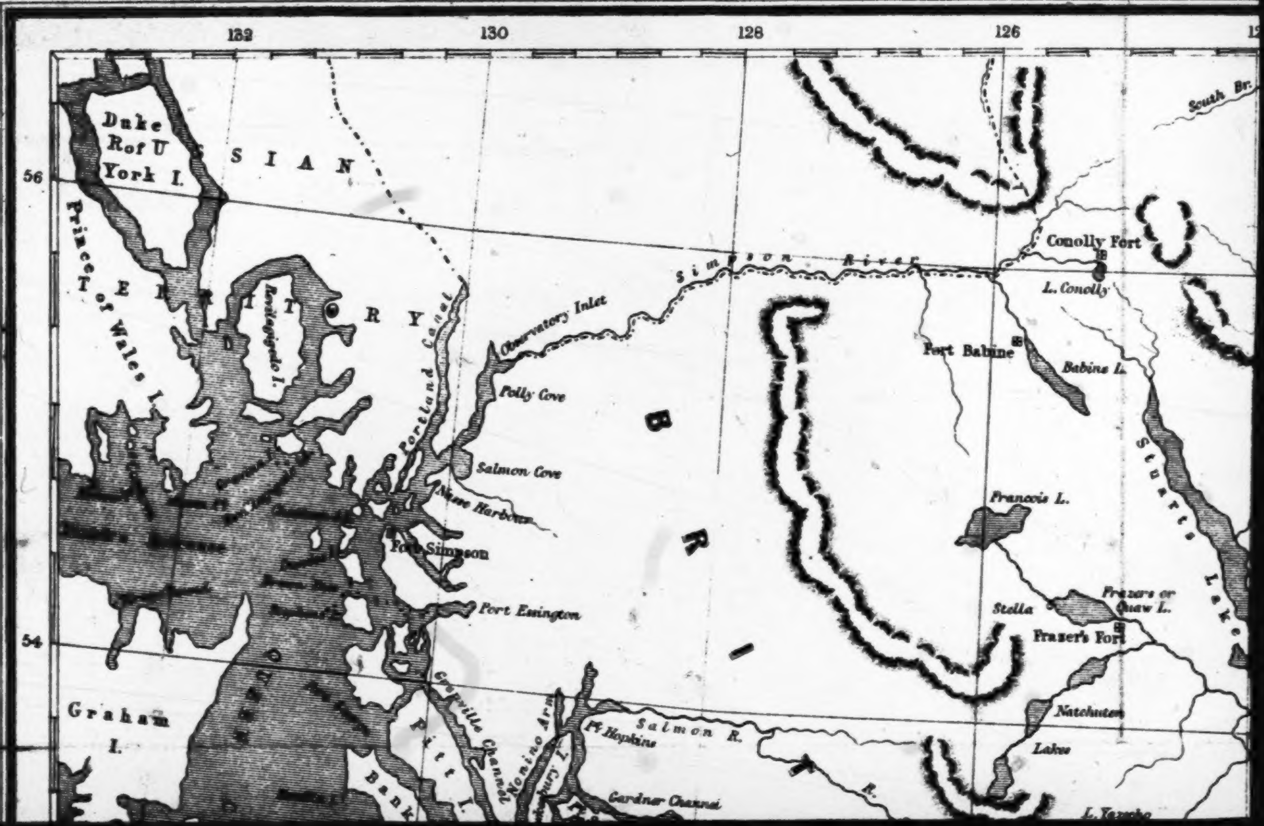
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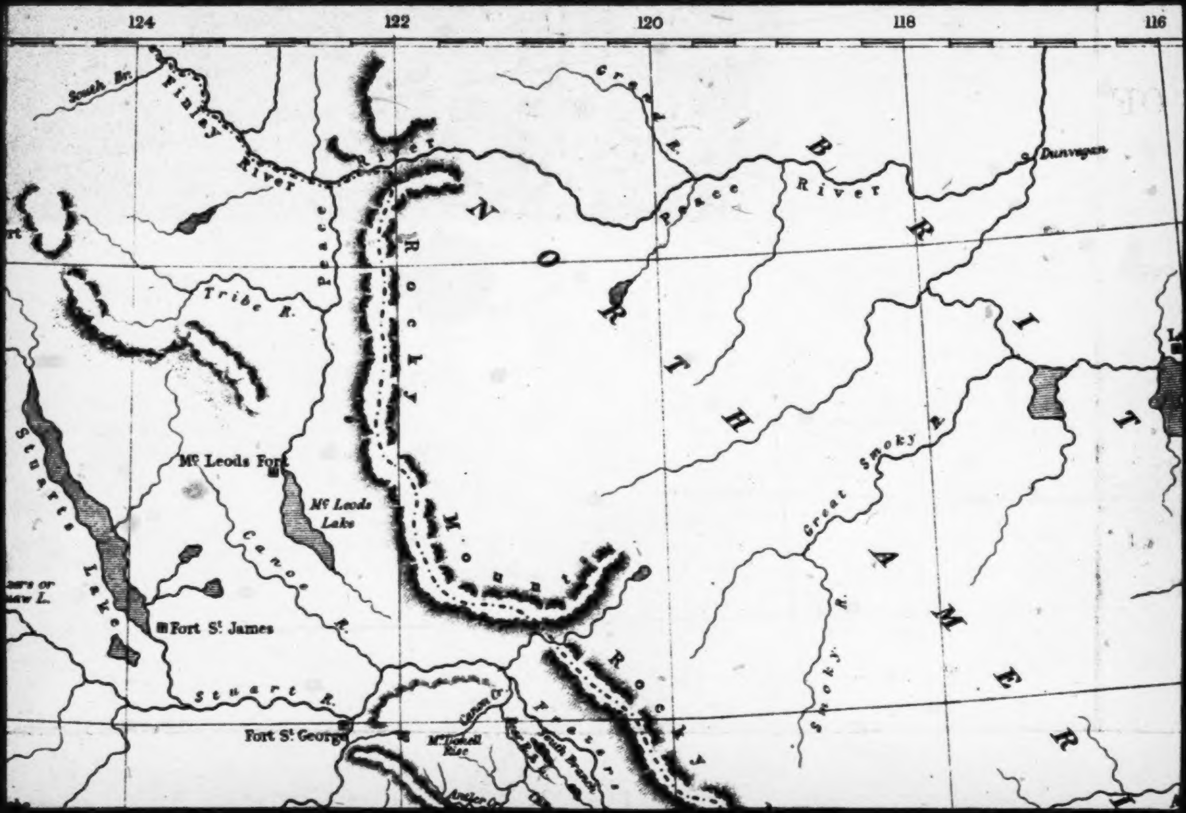
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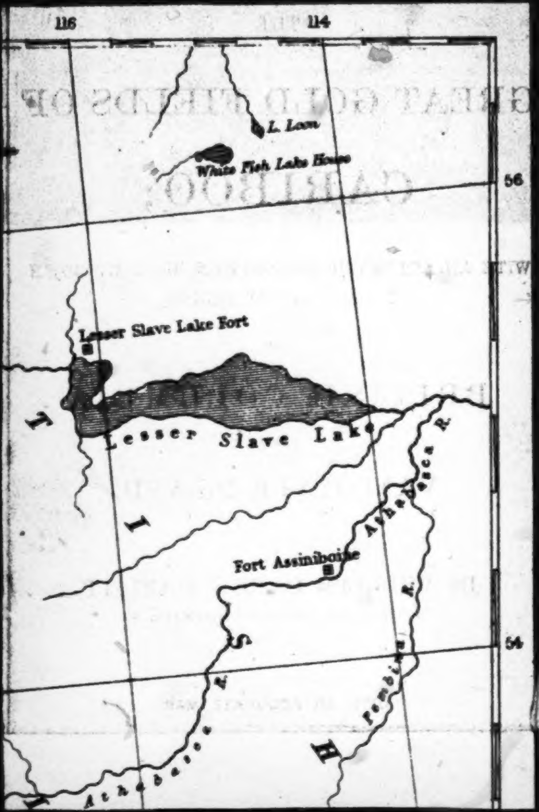
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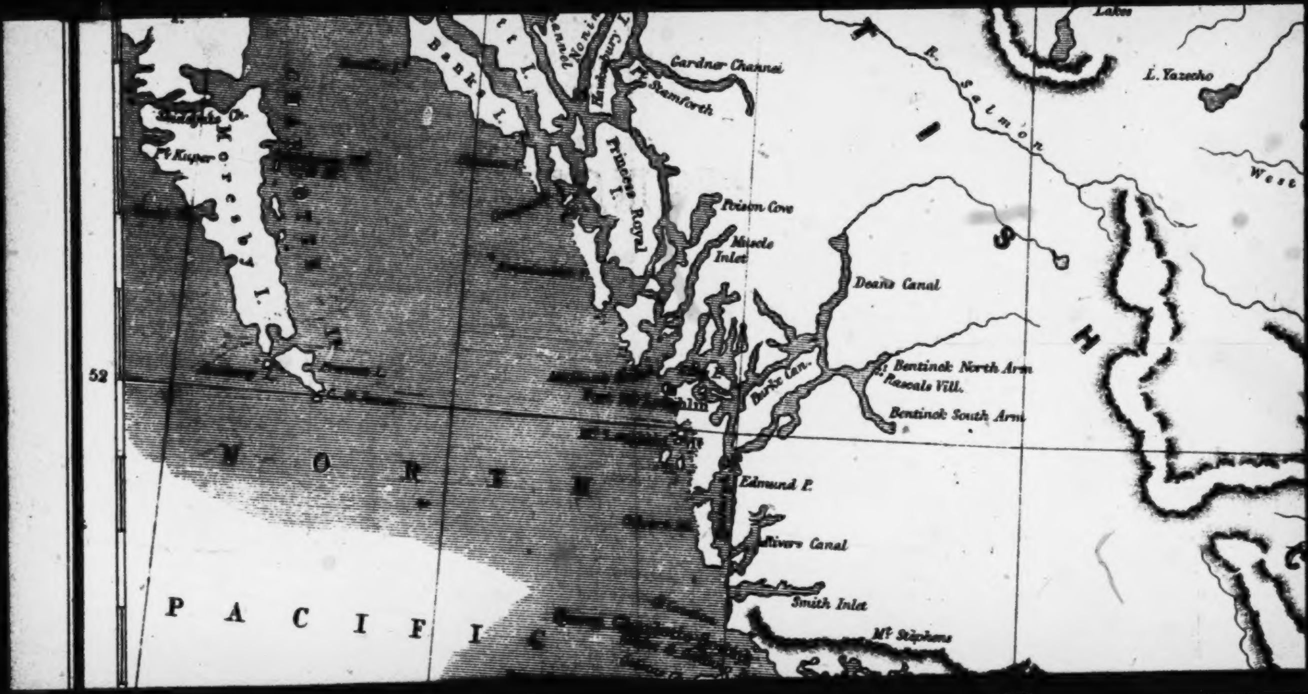Lakes
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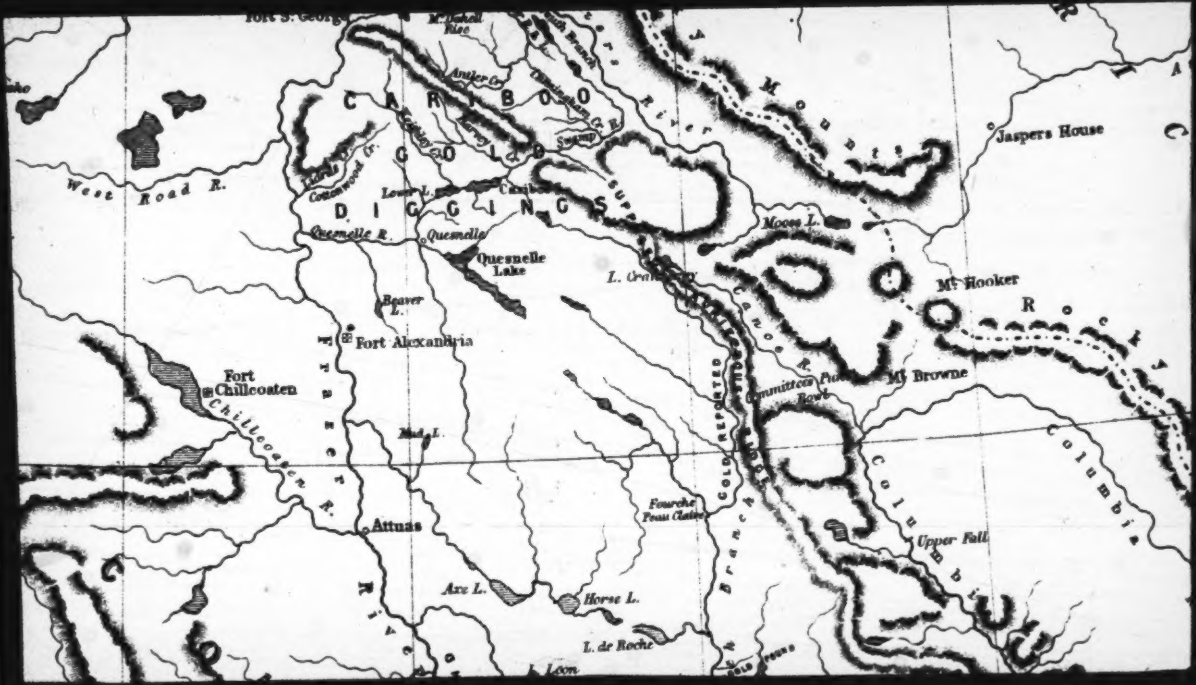
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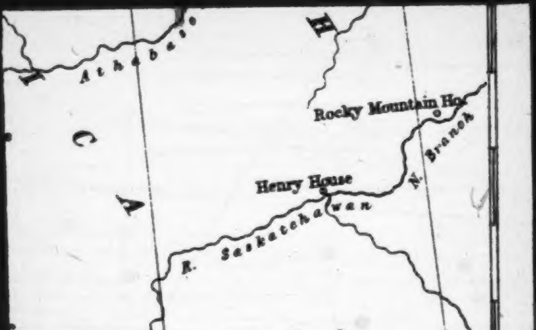
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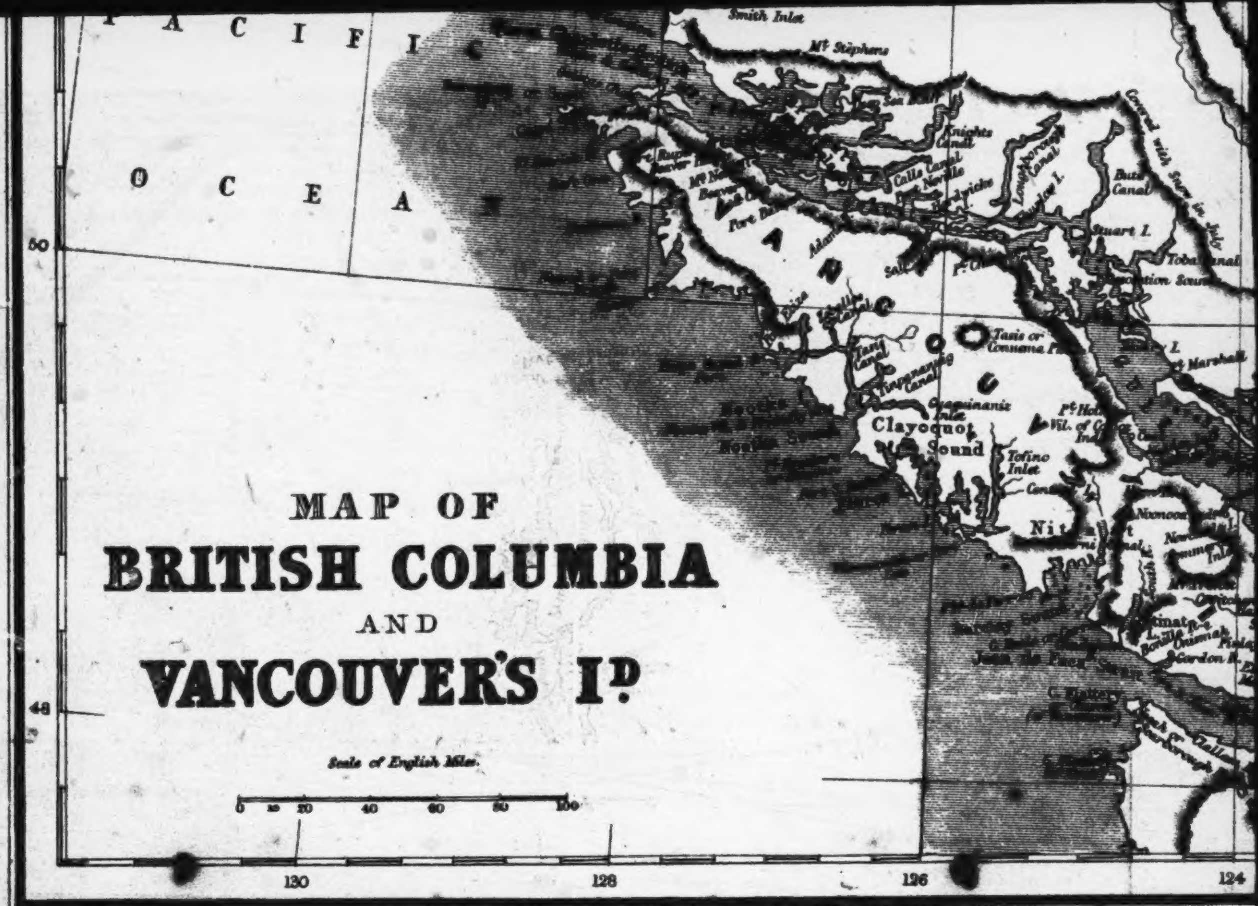
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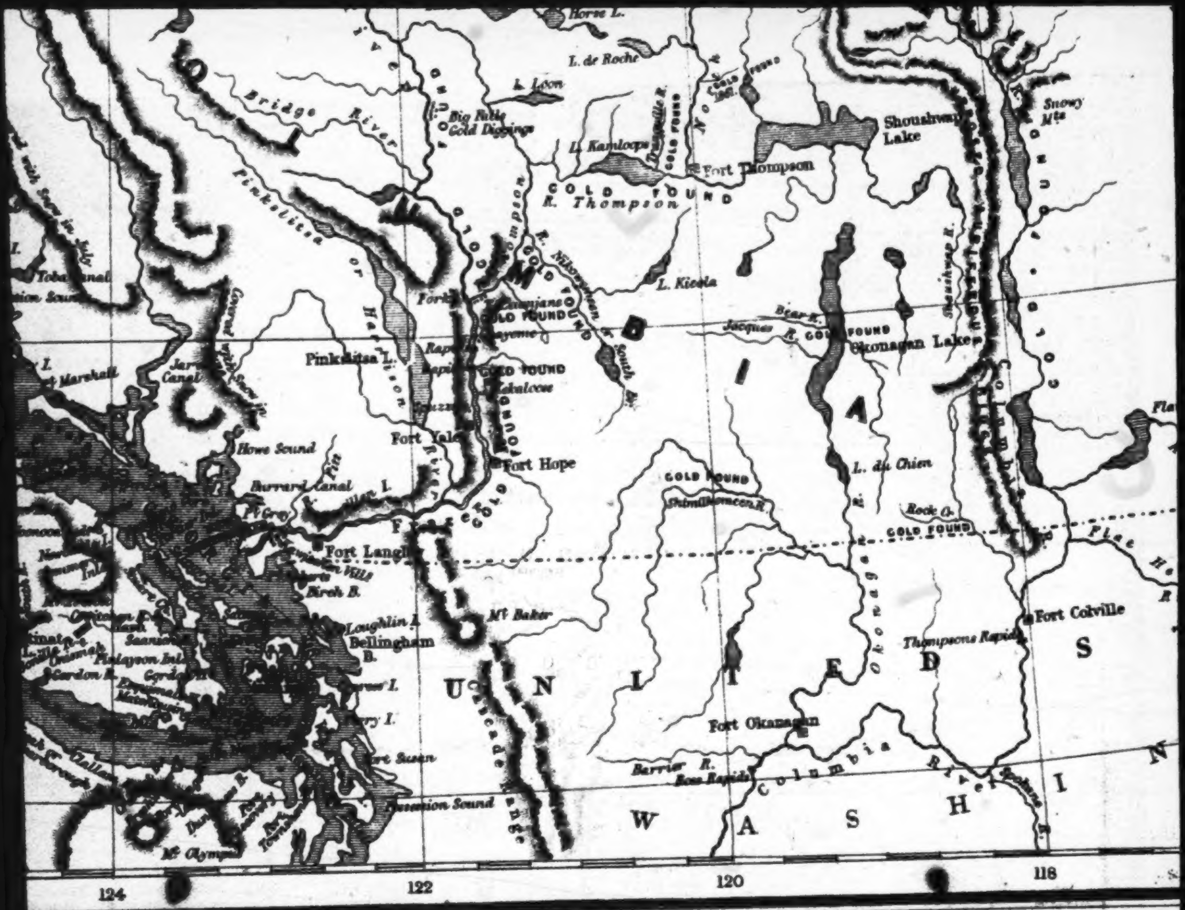
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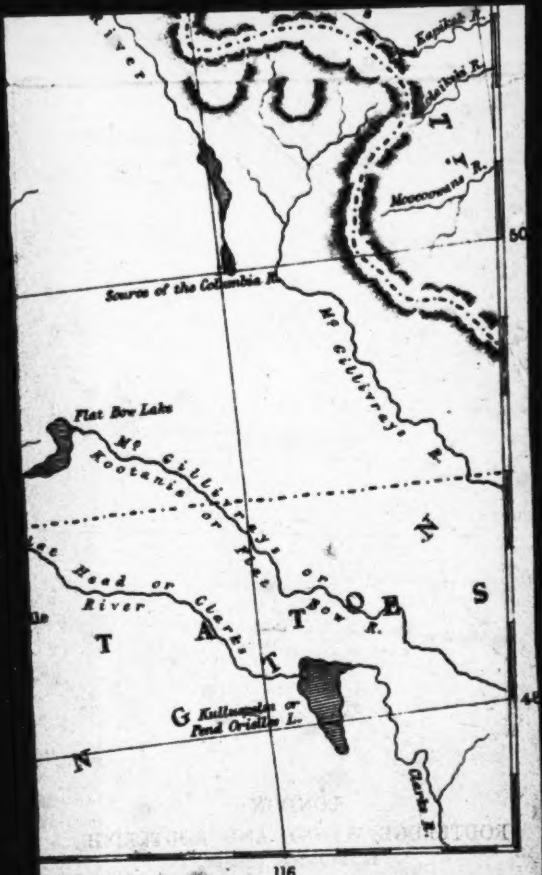River
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THE

GREAT GOLD FIELDS OF CARIBOO;

WITH AN AUTHENTIC DESCRIPTION, BROUGHT DOWN
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OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

By WILLIAM CAREW HAZLITT,
OF THE INNER TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

WITH AN ACCURATE MAP.

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NEW YORK: 56, WALKER STREET.
1862.

LONDON:
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PREFACE.

IN 1858, the present writer published a small volume, entitled "British Columbia and Vancouver Island," in which he attempted to present to English readers a full and accurate account of the new colony, so far as the knowledge obtained in respect to its prospects and resources up to that time would allow. In the course of the last four or five years, however, information on British Columbia has been steadily accumulating, and the avidity with which this has been received, shows unmistakeably the growing interest felt by the British public on the subject. This abundance of fresh knowledge, dispersed as it is through the columns of the press, and in official and private letters, imperatively calls for publication in a collective shape, and it has prompted the writer to reject the notion of bringing out a merely revised edition of his former work, and to adopt the safer plan of recasting his materials, embodying therewith a carefully digested selection of all the reliable intelligence that has hitherto reached us: so that, in fact, the present volume may be regarded as virtually a new book.

Prosperous as has been the growth of the colony since its establishment in 1858, it is more particularly within the last few months—in fact, since the discovery of the GREAT GOLD FIELDS OF CARIBOO, that public attention has been drawn to this quarter. So alluring have been the accounts furnished by returned diggers and others, of the almost fabulous gains that have rapidly rewarded their toil, in this new auriferous region, that a stream of immigration has poured in, not only from our own country and its dependencies, but from China, California, and other parts of the world.

The mineral wealth of this highly favoured land is unquestionable: not only has it been found to be the richest of gold-producing countries yet explored, but it contains treasures of almost equal value in its vast coal fields. This latter source of wealth and of commercial and industrial development promises indeed to raise the colony eventually to the highest pitch of prosperity. Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island, may therefore fairly hope one day to become the Liverpool of the Pacific Ocean.

British Columbia has, however, attractions for other immigrants besides miners and diggers. Owing to its salubrious climate, the fertility of the soil, and the abundance of its rivers, it is evidently destined to become, as its population increases, a great agricultural district; and there can be no doubt that from this fortunate combination of advantages, farmers would find there a lucrative field for their labours. In proof of this opinion it may be stated, on good authority, that the colony has "lost this year full 100,000*l.* simply through the want of agricultural development."

The facilities of transit have latterly been considerably increased, and will be found detailed in this work, as well as every other kind of information likely to be useful, or to interest the intending emigrant; and we may predict that from the thousands now wending their way to British Columbia, the day is not very far distant when the completion of the projected Inter-Colonial Railway will vastly swell the tide of immigration, and accelerate the development of England's newest, and probably her most valuable dependency.

The map which accompanies the volume has been made as complete as possible, and includes all the latest discoveries.

W. C. H.

4, Powis Place, W.C.,
April 20th, 1862.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

CHAPTER I.

Geography of British Columbia—First Discovery of the Coast by the Spaniards—Hernando Cortez—Earliest Operations of the English on the Coast—Voyage of Drake—Later Discoveries—Voyages of Cook and others—Discoveries of the Fur-Traders—Voyages of Berkeley and Vancouver.

British Columbia (formerly known as New Caledonia) comprises "all such territories within the dominions of Her Majesty, as are bounded to the south by the frontier of the United States of America, to the east by the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, to the north by Simpson's River and the Finlay branch of the Peace River, and to the west by the Pacific Ocean." It also includes Queen Charlotte's Islands, and all other islands adjacent to these territories, with the exception, until otherwise provided by the Queen in Council, of Vancouver Island.

The region thus described in the Statute 21 and 22 of the Queen, cap. 99, s. 1, is the New Caledonia which, as a district of the Columbia Department of the Hudson's Bay territories, was classed by that Company among their richest possessions. While it was in their hands, it extended much farther south; at present, under the treaty of 1846, its southern limit is at parallel 49° N., while its northern boundary runs in about parallel 55°. It is about 420 miles long in a straight line; its average breadth is about 250 to 300 miles. Measured from corner to corner, its greatest length, however, is 805 miles, and its greatest breadth 400 miles. Mr. Arrowsmith computes its area, including Queen Charlotte's Islands, at somewhat more than 200,000 square miles. The denomination of New Caledonia dates no earlier than the time of Captain Cook; by Vancouver the coast between parallels 45° and 50° was called New Georgia, and that between 50° and 54° New Hanover. In 1806, the North-West Company formed the first settlement in this district ever made by British subjects, on a small lake called, after the person by whom the expedition was headed, Fraser's Lake, and since that time British traders have applied the designation New Caledonia to the whole region extending from 48° to 56° 30′, between the Rocky Mountains and the sea.

These mountains, which are also known as the Stony, and, more southerly, as the Oregon Mountains, form part of a lofty chain, which divides North-Western America from the other portions of the continent, running continuously in a north-west direction, from the Mexican Andes to the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Between this great chain and the Pacific an ample territory lies, of which the main breadth is loosely calculated at 500 miles. The northern portion, terminating at 54° 40′ N., belongs, under treaties between Russia and the United States of America in 1824, and between Russia and Great Britain in the following year, to Russia; the next portion, reaching a line drawn east from the Gulf of Georgia south of Frazer's River in parallel 49°, to the Rocky Mountains, belongs, under the treaty of 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, to the latter Power; the remainder, so far as the Mexican frontier, has been absorbed by the United States. In the negotiations which ensued upon the seizure of British vessels in Nootka Sound, and terminated in the Convention of the Escurial, the Spanish Government designated this territory "the Coast of California, in the South Sea;" but it has more recently been known as the Oregon or Columbia River Territory.

There is no doubt that the earliest pioneers on these coasts were the Spaniards. The Pacific Ocean was discovered by Vasco Nunez de Balboa in the year 1513; Magellan's Strait, by *Fernando Magalhaens*, in 1520. In the earlier part of 1532 the most northerly point on the Western coast of America occupied by the Spaniards was Culiacan, at the entrance of the Gulf of California; beyond this town, toward the North and West, the lands and seas of North-Western America were wholly unexplored.

An expedition made by order of Cortes, under the command of Mendoza and Mazuela, in 1532, produced no result; but a second, under Grijalva and Becerra, in 1533, discovered California, of which peninsula Cortez, on the 3rd May, 1535, took possession in the name of the King of Spain. The last expedition despatched by Cortez was under the command of Francesco de Ulloa, who sailed from Acapulco on the 8th July, 1539; and who, having first surveyed the shores of the Gulf of California, and having thus ascertained that California was not an island, proceeded northward, according to Herrera, so far as the 28th parallel, and was lost. Other writers, on the contrary, allege that Ulloa reached the 30th degree, and then returned safely to Mexico.

A maritime expedition despatched by Antonio de Mendoza, in 1540, resulted in the discovery of the Colorado River, and in the same year a region identified by Mr. Greenhow as the beautiful district now called *Sonora*, was acquired for the King of Spain by an exploring force sent by Mendoza in that direction, for the purpose of discovery and conquest. The name is said to be a corruption of Senòra, by the Spanish commander Coronado, in honour of the Viceroy, who bore as a portion of his arms an image of Nuestra Senora de Buena Guia, "Our Lady of Safe Conduct."

In June, 1542, two vessels started under Juan Cabrillo from the port of Navidad in Xalisco. Cabrillo examined the coast of California as far north as 37° 10′, when he was driven back by a storm to the island of San Bernardo, where he died. His pilot, Ferrelo, continued his course northward. Respecting the point which he succeeded in reaching, there is some difference of opinion. Greenhow contends that he proceeded as far as the present Cape Mondocino; while others, and Humboldt among them, say that he discovered Cape Blanco in 43°. Cape Blanco afterward changed its name to Cape Orford.

These explorations had been made by the Spaniards by virtue of the papal bull, conferring on Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain and their successors all the New World to the west of a meridian line drawn a hundred leagues west of the Azores, the other portion having been conferred by the Holy Father on the Portuguese. When England renounced her allegiance to Rome, she repudiated also the validity of this preposterous concession, and asserted the right of Englishmen to navigate any part of the ocean, to settle in any country not occupied by another Christian nation, and to trade with any customers who desired to trade with them.

In accordance with this policy, Sir Francis Drake, sailing from Plymouth on the 13th December, 1577, with only five vessels, carried three of these safely through the Straits of Magellan. A storm then dispersed the little squadron, and Drake was left with only one schooner of 100 tons and about sixty men, to prosecute his enterprise against the whole power of Spain on the western coast of America. The bold navigator persevered, however, and realized immense booty. In the spring of 1579, apprehending that the Spaniards would intercept him if he should attempt to return through Magellan's Straits, he resolved to seek a north-easterly passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic, by the *Straits of Anian*, which, discovered by Gaspar Corteral, a Portuguese, in 1499, were long supposed to connect the two oceans, and to be the north-westerly passage so much desired by European navigators. The most generally received opinion now is, that the Straits of Anian are identical with *Hudson's Strait*, leading, not from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but merely into *Hudson's Bay*.

Setting aside the question whether Drake found New Georgia, or approached Fuca's Straits, it is indisputable that he discovered and appropriated, as English territory, the region extending along the coast, between latitude 43° and 48°; and bestowed upon it the name of *New Albion*.

In 1776, Parliament offered a reward of £20,000 to the discoverer of any practicable passage by sea between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, in any direction or parallel of the northern hemisphere north of the 52nd degree of latitude. Captain Cook, who had lately returned from his second voyage of circumnavigation, offered to conduct this mission of discovery; and two vessels were placed under his command for the purpose.

The instructions given to Cook were to proceed by way of the Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, and Otaheite, to the coast of New Albion; there he was to put into the first convenient port to obtain wood, water, and refreshments, and thence to proceed northward along the coast to the latitude of 65 degrees, where he was to begin his search for "such rivers or inlets as might appear to be of considerable extent, and pointing toward Hudson's or Baffin's Bay, should he find a passage of that description."

Cook sailed from Plymouth on the 12th of July, 1776, in the *Resolution*, followed by the *Discovery*, under Captain Charles Clarke, who joined him at the Cape of Good Hope. They arrived in sight of the north-western coast of America on the 7th March, 1778, near 44°, about two hundred miles north of Cape Mendocino. For several days, Cook was prevented from advancing northward by contrary winds, which forced him one hundred miles in the opposite course; but he was ultimately enabled to examine partially a large extent of coast, and to determine with greater accuracy than had been hitherto attempted the longitude of that part of America. The weather at length permitting, he took the desired direction; and running rapidly northward, at some distance from the land, he was on the 22nd March opposite a projecting point of the continent, a little beyond the 48th parallel, to which he gave the name of Cape Flattery, in token of the improvement in his prospects.

The navigators then sailed north-westward, doubled a projection of the land, named by them Point *Breakers*, from the violence of the surf breaking on it, and found immediately beyond a spacious bay, opening into the Pacific, in the latitude of 49½ degrees. Into this bay they sailed, and anchored on its northern side, at the distance of ten miles from the sea, in a safe and commodious harbour, which they called Friendly Cove.

From the number of articles of iron and brass found among these people, one of whom had moreover two silver spoons of Spanish manufacture hanging round his neck as ornaments—from their manifesting no surprise at the sight of his ships, and not being startled at the report of his guns, and from the strong inclination to trade exhibited by them, Cook was at first inclined to suppose that the place had been visited by vessels of civilized nations before his arrival. He, however, became convinced by his inquiries and observations during his stay that this was by no means probable. The iron and brass might, be conceived, have been brought from Canada or Hudson's Bay, and the silver spoons from Mexico; and he imputed the indifference of the natives respecting the ships to their natural indolence of temper and want of curiosity.

On his arrival in this bay Cook had christened it "King George's Sound;" but afterwards he found that it was called Nootka by the natives, by which name it has accordingly ever since been known. The bay is situated on the south-western side of Vancouver Island, which was, till 1770, supposed to be part of the American continent;

and it communicates with the Pacific by two openings, the more southerly of which, the only one affording a passage for large vessels, lies under the parallel of 49° 33′.

On the 1st of May, Cook saw the land about the 55th parallel; and on the following day he passed under 57° near the beautiful conical mountain, known since Bodega's time (1775) as Mount San Jacinto. The name of the peak was changed to Mount Edgecumb by Cook, who also gave the name of *Bay of the Islands* to the Port Remedios of the Spaniards on its northern side.

After leaving these places, the English observed a wide opening on the east, called by them *Cross Sound*, and beyond it a very high mountain, which they denominated *Mount Fairweather*. The latter was situated near the 59th parallel, and they had consequently advanced farther north than the Spaniards or any other navigators had proceeded from the south along that coast, and were entering upon the theatre of Russian enterprise. Although Spanish navigators may have seen portions of the coast of North America between the limits of 43° and 55° prior to his visit, their observations had been too cursory and vague to lead to any practical result; and to Cook belongs, beyond doubt, the credit of having first ascertained the true extent of the American and Asiatic continents, and their proximity to each other.

On the return of the expedition to England (October, 1780), it became known that there was abundance of animals with fine furs on the north-west coast of America, and that there was a large opening for the fur trade in China; for the ships, on their return to England after the deaths of Cook and Clarke, had put into Canton, and found a ready market for the skins collected by the crews, to the amount of 10,000 dollars. The Russians had promptly availed themselves of information on the subject acquired from Captain King, and an association was formed among the fur merchants of Siberia and Kamtschatka to open a trade with the shores of the American continent. By this association various trading posts were established in 1783, between Aliaska and Prince William's Sound; and in 1788 other Russian settlements had extended themselves as far as Admiralty Bay, at the foot of Mount Elias. Since that time the Russian frontier has advanced to the coast of Queen Charlotte's Sound.

The publication, however, of the journals of Cook's expedition in 1784-5 brought other Powers into these seas. La Perouse, on leaving his country for the Pacific in 1785, was specially instructed "to explore the parts of the north-west coasts of America which had not been examined by Cook, and of which the Russian accounts furnished no idea, in order to obtain information respecting the fur trade, and also to learn whether in these unknown parts some river or internal sea might not be found communicating with Hudson's Bay or Baffin's Bay." But the geography of North-Western America gained little by this movement; for of the three months passed by La Perouse on the coast, one-third was spent at anchor in a bay at the foot of Mount Fairweather, and the remainder in visiting various points of the coast as far south as Monterey.

It is remarkable that Cook, though he made diligent search for the Strait of Fuca, was not successful in discovering it, and that that honour was reserved for Berkeley. The Strait of Juan de Fuca, through which that navigator himself was believed in Cook's time to have sailed from the Pacific into the Atlantic, in 1592, has an average width of eleven miles, and runs from the Pacific into the Gulf of Georgia. It is, says Pemberton, free from sunken rocks or shoals; its direction is eastward for about seventy miles to its junction with the channels which lead by a northerly course into the Gulf of Georgia, which separates Vancouver's Island from the continent. "The approach," continues the same writer, "is safe for all descriptions of vessels, being liable to no other dangers than those incidental to gales from the S.E., which, with considerable intervals of tranquil weather, are in winter not uncommon, and to fogs, or rather dense smoke, arising from forests on fire in autumn; although in the latter case soundings are a safeguard, and good anchorage can generally be found within a mile of either shore."

"The facility of entering and navigating this strait has been greatly increased by the erection of lighthouses on the south shore by the United States Government, and on the north by the British. That at Cape Flattery stands 162 feet above the sea, and in clear weather the light can be seen distinctly 20 miles off. New Dungeness is 100 feet high, and has a fog-bell attached to the lighthouse."

When Cook's journals were given to the world, the British trade in the Pacific was divided between two great corporate bodies, each of which possessed peculiar and exclusive privileges, secured by Act of Parliament. Thus, no British subjects, except those in the service or bearing the licence of the *South Sea* Company, were in a position to make expeditions for trade or fishery, by way of Cape Horn or Magellan's Straits, to any part of the western coast of America, or the seas and islands within three hundred leagues of it: while no British subjects, not employed or licensed by the *East India* Company, could proceed for either of those purposes around the Cape of Good Hope to any seas or lands east of that point, between it and Magellan's Straits; with the provision, however, that the privileges conferred on the East India Company should not be considered as interfering with those previously granted to the other association. All British vessels found trading or fishing contrary to the Acts by which these privileges were conferred, became liable to confiscation, and the persons directing such expeditions exposed themselves to the risk of heavy penalties.

The next discoveries worthy of note made after

Cook's voyage were those of Captains Portlock and Dixon, in the service of the *King George's Sound Company*, which aimed at monopolizing the trade between the North Pacific coasts and China. Portlock and Dixon left England in August, 1785, and reached Cook's River in July, 1786. Dixon claimed the discovery of the land between the 54th and 52nd degrees of latitude, on the ground that it had not been seen by Cook, though it is specially marked on the chart of that navigator as found by the Spaniards in 1775; and having become convinced from the reports of the natives that this land was separated from the American continent by water, he bestowed on it the name of *Queen Charlotte's Islands*, and on the passage immediately north of it that of *Dixon's Entrance*.

In the year subsequent to this expedition, Captain Duncan, commanding the *Princess Royal*, ascertained the already assumed separation of Queen Charlotte's Islands from the mainland, and discovered the group now known as the *Princess Royal's Archipelago*.

In 1788, Meares, in the *Felice*, accompanied by Captain Douglas in the *Iphigenia*, continued his examination as far north as latitude 49° 37′, after which he retraced his progress, and on reaching the Strait of Juan de Fuca, took possession of it, with the usual ceremonies, in the name of the King of Great Britain.

In 1787, Captain Berkeley, commanding a vessel called the *Imperial Eagle*, discovered immediately north of Cape Flattery, between 48° and 49°, a broad arm of the sea, stretching eastward from the Pacific. To this passage Captain Meares in the following year gave the appellation of Fuca's Straits, in commemoration of the old Greek pilot, whose story is so well known. Berkeley did not, however, explore the passage.

The United States now began to engage actively in the trade of the North Pacific, and the voyages made on this account were the origin of the Oregon question, which led to the Treaty of 1846. In 1789, an American trader, named Gray, sailed round the islands now named Queen Charlotte's, and gave them the name of his sloop, *Washington*; he afterwards entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and sailed in it east-south-east for fifty miles. In 1790, the Spaniards having previously taken possession of Nootka and the coast generally, two vessels, the *Discovery* and the *Chatham*, under the command of Captain Vancouver and Lieutenant Broughton, were despatched on the authority of a convention with the Spaniards, to receive the cession of the territory from their officers in the Pacific, although, in point of fact, the cession was not finally made till March, 1795. Prior to their arrival on the coast in 1792, the Spaniards had made progress in ascertaining the character of the Strait of Juan de Fuca; one of their officers, Lieutenant Quimper, having, in 1791, proceeded to its eastern limit, and ascertained the position of the principal openings of the coast in that direction, though it does not appear that he entered them. In the autumn of the same year Captain Gray, in the *Columbia*, visited the more northern coasts, and explored a canal in latitude 54° 33′, which is supposed to have been that afterwards named by Vancouver, Portland Canal; in the spring, he discovered Bullfinches' or Gray's Harbour, between the Strait of Fuca and Columbia River, in latitude 46° 58′, and the day following entered the mouth of that river, and sailed up it about ten miles, from whence he proceeded in boats fifteen miles farther, and after some delay succeeded in his endeavour to get to sea. He gave it the name it now bears.

On the 1st of May, 1792, Vancouver and Broughton left Cape Flattery, and sailed slowly along the coast in an easterly direction about a hundred miles, until, reaching the extreme point to which it extended eastward, they entered the harbour, already known as *Port Quadra*, to which they gave the new name of *Port Discovery*. At a short distance beyond Port Discovery, the navigators found another opening in the coast toward the south, corresponding to Quimper's *Canal de Caamano*, through which they entered an extensive arm of the sea with several branches, stretching in various southerly directions. On this arm they bestowed the name of *Admiralty Inlet*; its western branch was called *Hood's Canal*; its eastern, *Possession Sound*: while the southern received the appellation of *Puget's Sound*; and all having undergone a minute survey, the navigators were in a position to deny the possibility of reaching the continent through these channels.

After this examination of the coast in an easterly direction, the navigators proceeded to take possession, in the name of the King of England, of all that part of New Albion, from 39° 20′ south latitude, and 236° 26′ east longitude, to the entrance of the inlet, supposed to be the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as also of all the coasts, islands, &c., within the said strait, and on both its shores; and this territory they christened in honour of his Majesty, *New Georgia.*

On their return to the Strait of Fuca, Vancouver and Broughton proceeded through one of the *inter-insular* channels opening into that strait nearly opposite Admiralty Inlet, into a long and wide gulf, having its course in a north-westerly direction; and pursuing their way for a few days toward the close of the same month, they fell in with the Spaniards, who had sailed from Nootka, on the very day (June 4) on which the English were entering into occupation of New Georgia. It was during the three weeks that the two expeditions remained in company that the shores of the newly explored gulf, of which we have spoken as opening into the Strait of Fuca opposite Admiralty Inlet, were surveyed by Vancouver and his associates. The discovery received from Vancouver the name of the *Gulf of Georgia.* This gulf was found to extend north-westward as far as 50°; but the leading result of their explorations had been to enforce the conviction that no such passage existed.

The Spaniards, who had separated from Vancouver and Broughton, arrived at Nootka on the 4th September. Having carefully compared their charts exhibiting the result of their respective voyages through the Strait of Fuca, the British commander came to an understanding with Quadra, that the island, which was divided from the continent by that channel, should henceforth bear the name of the *Island of Quadra and Vancouver.* But it is now known as *Vancouver Island.*

CHAPTER II.

Fuca's Strait—Mackenzie's Voyage (1789)—Fraser's Voyage (1806)—Description of the Lake Scenery of British Columbia—Rivers—Climate—Native Population—Language of the Natives—Religion — Canoes—Houses, &c.—Agricultural Resources of British Columbia—Fisheries—Game, Wild Animals, &c.—Currency of the District.

THE coast of North-Western America, north of the Columbia or Oregon River, is everywhere penetrated by inlets and bays, and along it are thousands of islands, many of them extensive, lying singly or in groups, separated from each other and from the continent by narrow intricate channels. The entire length of this coast is, as already observed, bordered by the Rocky Mountains, which, having their northern extremity in the Arctic Ocean, lat. 70° N., long. 140° W., run nearly S.S.E., parallel with the coast, sending out, at different places, spurs and buttresses, and dividing the rivers that flow into the Atlantic from those that flow into the Pacific.

Mount Browne, 16,000, and Mount Hooker, 15,700 feet high, are two of the loftiest peaks of these mountains.

The range of intermediate hills between the Rocky Mountains and the sea is called the *Cascade Range.*

From Protection Island, says Vancouver, commences the maritime importance of the territory, with as fine a harbour as any in the world. In addition to the roadstead, which, protected by the island before named, affords secure anchorage in deep water without rock or shoal, the harbour itself extends above nine miles inland in a partly winding direction north and south, with an average width of something less than two miles, shoaling from thirty-six fathoms at one-half its length, to twenty-eight and three-quarters, and thence gradually to seven at its extremity, where it receives the waters of a considerable stream.

The northern arm of the straits commences in an archipelago of small islands, well wooded and fertile, but generally without water. In one of them, however, Vancouver found good anchorage, though exposed to the south, having wood, water, and every necessary; this he named Strawberry Cove, from that fruit having been found there in great plenty; and the island, from the trees which covered it, Cypress Island. About this part the continental shore is high and rocky, though covered with wood; and it may be remarked generally, that the northern shore of the gulf becomes more rocky and sterile, showing gradually a less and less variety of trees, until those of the pine tribe alone are found. Above the Archipelago the straits widen, swelling out to the east in a double bay, affording good anchorage, beyond which the shores become low and sandy, and a wide bank of sand extends along them about one or two miles, closely approaching the opposite side of the gulf, leaving a narrow but clear channel. This bank affording large sturgeon, was named by Vancouver after that fish; and keeping to the south round it, he did not observe that here the gulf receives the waters of Frazer's River from the north.

In this part of the gulf in the month of June Vancouver saw a great number of whales. The peculiar feature of this continental shore lies in the long narrow channels of deep water, which wind circuitously round the base of its rocky mountains. Towards the north-west they get longer and more intricate; the gulf becomes contracted and blocked up with islands, and the shore rises abruptly, in high black perpendicular rocks, wearing on the whole so barren and dreary an aspect that this part of the gulf obtained the name of Desolation Sound.

This region is described, however, as highly romantic in character, cleft by deep dells and ravines, down which torrents rush with foam and thunder; by high rocks of every variety of fantastic shape; and above all, by snow-covered mountains of massive grandeur; while fir-trees, proceeding from every crevice, clothe with dark verdure their rocky and precipitous sides. One of the most remarkable features of the northern shore of the gulf is the small salt-water lakes, between which and the sea there runs a narrow ledge of rock, having a depth over it of four feet at high water, and some of which, branching off in several directions, serve to water the surrounding country. In this district are found hot springs, and many other evidences of former convulsions of nature.

In 1789, Mr., afterwards Sir, A. Mackenzie undertook the task of examining the country north of the extreme point then occupied by the fur-traders, in order to discover a passage by sea from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Departing from Fort Chippewayan, he proceeded above Hearne River, through Hearne Lake, entered a river, until this time unknown to Europeans, except by report, which has been called by his name, Mackenzie River; and following its course, reached its mouth, in lat. 69°, at the end of July. Having thus established the fact of the continuation westward of that northern ocean which Hearne had, in 1771, discovered more to the eastward, he returned home.

Mackenzie's second expedition, more directly affecting the region now under consideration, commenced in October, 1792, when, leaving Fort Chippewayan, he ascended the Peace, or as the Indians call it, Unijah River, for upwards of 200 miles, to a point in latitude 56° 9', where he built a log-house and spent the winter. Departing thence on the 9th May, 1793, he proceeded up the river, and in June reached its source. This he found in a small lake situated in a deep snowy valley, embosomed in woody mountains. The lake is about two miles in length, and from three to five hundred yards wide: he found in it trout and carp, and its banks were clothed with spruce, white birch, willow, and alder: it is in lat. 54° 24′, long. 121° W., by his computation.

This is the principal water of Mackenzie River, which, after its junction with the Elk River below the Lake of the Hills, having already run a distance of upwards of 500 miles, reaches, under the names of Slave River and Mackenzie River, the Arctic Ocean after a further course of 1000 miles.

From this lake he found a beaten path leading over a low ridge of land of eight hundred and seventeen paces in length to another lake rather smaller than the last. It is situated in a valley about a quarter of a mile wide, with precipitous rocks on either side, down which fall cascades, feeding both lakes with the melting snows of the mountains. Passing over this lake, he entered a small river, which, however, soon gathered strength from its tributary mountain streams, and rushed with great impetuosity over a bed of flat stones: these are the head waters of the Tatouche Tesse, or Frazer's River.

Continuing his journey to lat. 52¼°, he then returned up the stream to lat. 53¼°, whence he proceeded toward the Pacific by land. On his way, he noted women clothed in matted bark, edged with the skin of the sea-otter. In July he found the mountains covered with compact snow, and yet the weather was warm and the valleys beautiful. Descending the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, he found the country covered with large trees, pine, spruce, hemlock, birch, elder, and cedar. It abounded with animals.

In 1806, Mr. Fraser,* an employé of the North-West Fur-Trading Company, crossed the same chain, and established a post on a lake at the head of the Tatouche Tesse, called, after him, Frazer's Lake and River, one hundred miles north of Mackenzie's track. Still later, Mr. Harmon, another partner in the Company, made an expedition in the same direction, the results of which he published, in a thin volume, at Vermont, in 1822.

The whole of this vast district is so intersected by lakes and rivers of various dimensions, that it has been computed that one-sixth of the surface is water. Of these lakes, one of the largest—Stuart's Lake—is about fifty miles in length, and from three to four miles in breadth, stretching away to the north and north-east for about twenty miles, and studded in this direction with beautiful islands. The circumference is supposed to extend about 400 miles. The western shore is low, and indented by a number of small bays, formed by wooded points projecting into the lake, the background rising abruptly into a ridge of hills of different height and magnitude. On the east, the view is limited to a range of two or three miles by the intervention of a high promontory, from which the eye glances to the snowy summits of the Rocky Mountains in the distant background.

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* For an interesting memoir of this distinguished man see the *Canadian News* for the 20th of March, 1862. He was born 1783, and is, we believe, still living.

Fifty miles west from this is Fraser's Lake, about eighty-five miles in circumference. M'Leod's Lake, in latitude 55°, is in circumference about fifty-five miles, and was also furnished with a post. The waters of this lake fall into the Peace River; those flowing out of the other two lakes are supposed to empty themselves into the Pacific. The immense quantity of salmon which annually visit them, leave no doubt whatever of their communication with the Pacific; while the absence of this fish from M'Leod's Lake makes it almost equally certain that its outlet is not into that ocean. The river flows out of Stuart's Lake, passes through the populous tribe of the Nate-Ote-Tains, who informed Mr. M'Leod that white people came up in large boats to trade with the A-te-nas—a nation dwelling between them and the sea; a statement fully confirmed by the guns, iron pots, cloth, tar, and other articles found in their possession. Speaking of the lake scenery of this district, Mr. M'Leod writes: "The different parts of the country, towering mountains, hill and dale, forest and lake, and verdant plains, blended together in the happiest manner, are taken in by the eye at a glance. Some scenes there are which recal forcibly to the memory of a son of Scotia the hills and glens and 'bonny braes' of his own poor yet beloved native land. New Caledonia, however, has the advantage over the old, of being generally well wooded, and possessed of lakes of far greater magnitude. Unfortunately, however, the woods are decaying rapidly, particularly some varieties of fir, which are being destroyed by an insect which preys on the bark.

The principal rivers of British Columbia are Frazer's River, Salmon River, Thompson's River, Quesnel's River, Chilcotin River. The head waters of the chief of these, Fraser's River—called by the natives Tatoutche Tesse—rise near those of Canoe River, the most northern branch of the Columbia. After a western course of about 150 miles, it receives the Salmon River from the north, and somewhat lower the waters of Stuart's River are added from the north-west. The stream is then swollen by the Quesnel River, rising from a ridge of the Rocky Mountains, and running west into the main river of the district. Next comes the Chilcotin River, so called from a cognominal lake, in which it has its source. This stream, which is shallow, and full of rapids, runs in a S.S.E. direction from Fort Alexandria; its course is serpentine, and its whole length 180 miles, the breadth varying from forty to sixty yards.

Further on, this main stream is joined, on the left shore, by Thompson's River, which, rising near the source of Quesnel's River, flows at the base of the mountains which bound the Columbia to the west: this receives the waters of several lakes in a course of above 300 miles. The principal of these is Thompson's, above which it is joined by the Shouchwap, which has its rise between the Okanagan Lakes and main streams of the Columbia.

Of these rivers, Mr. Cooper, a resident in Vancouver Island for six years, said in his evidence before the Hudson's Bay Committee (1857):—"I have not myself personally visited Thompson's River, but I have my information from persons who have lived there themselves for thirty or forty years in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. They say that it is one of the most beautiful countries in the world, *and that gold is discovered in that and the neighbouring district now. When I left, the miners were getting from four to twenty dollars a day.* I believe, from all I have heard and seen, that it is capable of producing all the crops that we produce in England. Its climate bears no comparison to Canada; it is much more mild, much finer; decidedly as much as Great Britain to the eastern States of America."

The place at which the Thompson's River joins Fraser's River is called "The Forks." In parallel 49° this now important river breaks through the Cascade range of mountains, in a succession of falls and rapids, and then running westward about ninety miles, falls into the Gulf of Georgia, six miles N. of 49° N., that parallel being the boundary line between the British territories and those of the United States. The whole length is stated at about 400 miles. The country along its lower section is hilly and thickly wooded, and the soil is for the most part suitable both for arable and pasture land. Further north the country is equally well wooded, but it is less genial and fertile, and is intersected by mountains, torrents, gullies, and ravines.

At its mouth, Frazer's River is about a mile wide, with a serpentine channel leading through a sand flat. Fort Langley is situated on the left bank, thirty-five miles from the mouth. Thus far the stream is navigable for vessels of considerable burden. The next post is Fort Hope, at the mouth of Que-Queallon River, sixty-five miles above Fort Langley. Between Fort Hope and Fort Yale, sixteen miles, the river presents no difficulties whatever to a canoe ascending, excepting in one place, where there is a rapid, which, however, is no great obstacle, as close to the shore, in the eddy, a canoe is easily towed past it. But, about one half mile above Fort Yale, the river finds its passage between huge rocks—the sides almost perpendicular—and a canoe cannot be taken any farther. From thence, all goods have to be packed. Now and then a stretch of a mile or so is found, where the canoe can be of service.

From Fort Yale to the forks of Thompson and Frazer Rivers is ninety miles; and from these to the Grand Falls, thirty.

In respect to the climate of British Columbia, a gentleman who had resided in the district for eight years states that "in the salubrity of its climate the territory on the shores of the Pacific cannot be surpassed by any country in the world; the soil, too, is fertile in the highest degree, and possesses great agricultural capabilities—the more fertile districts lying, for the most part, between the Cascade Mountains and the ocean. That portion of the country which lies between the Cascade Mountains and the Pacific is subject to a remarkably equable temperature, the mean being about 54° Fahrenheit. The equable character of the climate is probably occasioned by the circumstance of the prevailing summer winds being from the north, and laden with the cooling influences of the Polar Sea; and that the winter winds, coming from the west, the south, and the south-east—except the latter, which comes from the snows of the mountains—tend to prevent that degree of cold which would otherwise prevail. There are about four months of winter, generally beginning in November and lasting till March. Snow seldom lies for more than a week on the ground; and, though there are frequent rains, they are not heavy. Slight frosts occur as early as September. The air, however, is pure and healthy. The eastern section, under the snows of the Rocky Mountains, cannot be praised for its climate. It is subject to great and sudden changes of temperature, occasionally going through all the gradations of summer, autumn, and winter in a single day." Mr. M'Lean says that he has experienced at Stuart's Lake, in the month of July, every possible change of weather within twelve hours—frost in the morning, scorching heat at noon, then rain, hail, and snow. Mr. Dunn testifies to a similar effect. "Occasional frosts announce the beginning of winter. The lakes and parts of the rivers are frozen in November. The snow seldom exceeds twenty-four inches in depth. The mercury, in Fahrenheit's thermometer, falls in January to 15° below 0; but this does not continue many days." Generally speaking, the mean temperature on the Pacific coast of British North America is, as stated by Mr. John Richardson, about 20° higher than what it is on the Atlantic coast in the same latitude.

The Indian tribes in and about the region under consideration are thus approximately enumerated in an official "Census of the Indian Tribes in the Oregon territory, from latitude 42° to latitude 54°, derived from the trading lists of the Hudson's Bay Company, and from the best obtainable information."

Name of the Tribe.	Where situated.	Males.	Females.	Slaves	Total.
Quacott—Nuvette and 29 others. Tribes speaking generally the Quacott language.	From lat. 54° to lat. 50°, including Queen Charlotte's Island, North end of Vancouver's Island, Milbank Sound and Island, and the Main Shore	19,020	20,218	1,570	40,808
Massettes and 13 tribes, not included with the above, and speaking different languages.	On Queen Charlotte's Island, not included in the above	3,232	3,381	—	6,613
Nass Indians, 4 tribes, speaking the same language.	Nass River on the Main Land	857	746	13	1,615
Chymseyans, 10 tribes, all of whom speak the same language, with a different idiom.	Chatham Sound, Portland Canal, Port Essington, and the neighbouring Islands. . .	1,205	1,225	65	2,495
Skeena Indians, 2 tribes.	At the Mouth of the Skeena River	196	120	7	323

Name of the Tribe.	Where situated.	Males.	Females.	Slaves.	Total.
Labassas Indians, 8 tribes.	Gardner's Canal, Canal de Principe, Canal de la Reine	717	6[illegible]1	111	1,4[illegible]
Millbank Sound, 9 tribes.	Millbank Sound, Cascade Canal, Dean's Canal, Salmon River, and the Islands on the Coast .	706	797	47	1,[illegible]
Challams—Cowitchins, 24 tribes, speaking the Challam and Cowitchim languages.	From lat. 50° along the Coast south to Whidby Island in lat. 48°; part of Vancouver's Island and the mouth of Frazer's River . .	3,170	2,[illegible]	2,[illegible]	[illegible]
New Caledonian Indians.—(8 tribes known).	M'Leod's Lake, Chelcotins, Fort George, Alexandria, in Frazer's River, Conally Lake, Babine Lake, Frazer's Lake, Stuart's Lake .	1,365	1,180	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] Indians, 3 tribes.	Straits of St. Juan de Fuca & Vancouver's Islands				
Children under	12 years 98	196	1[illegible]	—	445
Hallams, 11 tribes.	Ditto.				
Children under	12 years 457	517	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,485
Sinahomish, 1 tribe.	Ditto.				
Children under	12 years . . . . [illegible]	230	118	[illegible]	500
Skaitsut, 1 tribe.	Ditto.				
Children under	12 years 191	173	161	[illegible]	543
Cowlitchici, 7 tribes.	Ditto.				
Children under	12 years . . . . [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	1,7[illegible]
Soke Indians, 1 tribe.	Ditto.				
Children under	12 years 12	39	39	—	90
Cowitchen, 3 tribes, not as	yet ascertained . . say	—	—	—	600
Cape Flattery.—Gulf of Georgia Indians; exact numbers not ascertained	. . . . about	—	—	—	2,250

The leading tribe in British Columbia is the Takellies, or Tacullies, a name importing "carriers," who among themselves are divided into eight tribes of various extent. The character attributed to these Indians by the travellers who have visited them is by no means flattering; they seem to be remarkable for their greediness, sensuality, and mendacity. It is to be hoped that the new colonists will inculcate a higher condition of morality.

Gambling is another vice to which these poor Indians apply their untutored minds, in unconscious emulation of their betters. It is, indeed so ruling a passion with them, that a man will continue to stake on and on until he has reduced himself to absolute nakedness and starvation. They are also described as unscrupulous pilferers.

The Takellies are a sedentary people, being much in-doors, particularly in the winter, when there is often so little stir in an encampment or lodge that one may approach within the shortest distance of the huts before one is aware of their existence. At the same time, they are very social in their habits, and very fond of conversation *when* they are not sleeping; they are frequently in the habit of exchanging visits, and of passing their time at each other's huts. When it happens that a large number assemble in one place, the noise is incredible; all make a point of talking or bawling at one and the same time, and the convocation becomes a mere confusion.

Commodore Wilkes informs us that the Takellies are of a lighter complexion than the more northern tribes, and their features larger, particularly in the case of the females. They resemble, he says, the Indians of the Columbia, but are a taller and better-looking race. He corroborates the account of their extreme filth, physical and moral. They dressed in robes made of marmot skins; but they are now (1845) clothed in articles of European manufacture, of which they obtain a plentiful supply.

In common with other Indian nations, the Indians of this region have priests or medicine-men who practise incantations. When a body is burned, the priest pretends to receive the spirit of the deceased into his hands, which he does with many gesticulations. This spirit he is thought to be able to communicate to others living, and when he has selected the person, he throws his hands towards him, and at the same time blows upon him, after which the person takes the name of the deceased in addition to his own. In case of the death of a chief, or man of higher rank, this belief affords the priest an opportunity of extending his influence and power.

The language of the Takellies is a dialect of the Chippewayan family, so largely extended over North America. Mr. M'Lean notes as a singular fact that "the two intervening dialects of the Beaver Indians and Tsikanies, kindred nations, should differ more from the Chippewayan than the Takelly language; the two other nations being perfectly intelligible to each other, while the Beaver Indians and Tsikanies are but very imperfectly understood by their immediate neighbours, the Chippewayans."

The Takellies, like most of the tribes in this quarter, redeem, to a certain extent, their grossness and brutality in other respects, by their almost universal taste for music, and indeed, as musicians, are said to possess a superior ear to their neighbours. It is not impossible that this quality in the savage population of British Columbia may be made efficacious towards their civilization; for like the children in our own schools, they may be induced to listen to instruction, musically conveyed, to which otherwise they would pay no attention. Mr. M'Lean tells us that there is considerable variety and melody in the airs they sing. In common, again, with more refined people, they have professed "composers," who turn their talent to good account on the occasion of a feast, when new airs are in great request, and are purchased at a high rate. As to their dancing, it is performed in circles; men and women promiscuously holding each other by the hand and keeping both feet together, hop a little to a side all at once, giving at the same time a singular jerk to their persons behind. The movement seems to be difficult of execution, as it causes them to perspire profusely; they, however, keep excellent time, and the blending of the voices of the men and women in symphony has an agreeable effect.

"These Indians," observes Mr. M'Lean, "are not given to hospitality in the proper sense of the word. A stranger arriving among them is provided with food for a day only; should he remain longer he pays for it; for the day's entertainment, however, the best fare is liberally furnished."

The Talkotin Indians occupy the territory above Fort Alexandria, on Fraser River, and are described by Mr. M'Lean as being on terms of deadliest enmity with the Chilcotins. These reside about the cognominal lake and river, and are somewhat more numerous than the Naskotins. Their district abounds in beavers and other fur-bearing animals, but they are described as indifferent hunters, and as relying for their chief sustenance on the produce of the lake and the river. They are well acquainted with the use of fire-arms, and a traveller specifies "one particular gun of excellent quality which he saw among them, marked '*Barnet*, 1808.'" From these circumstances, and from the superiority of their general conduct and behaviour, from their greater cleanliness and comparative refinement, Mr. Cox was led to imagine that they must have had considerable intercourse with the whites. The dress they wore, common to both sexes, and which is a kind of blanket, favoured the supposition with Mr. Cox, who considered that these articles had been obtained from Russian travellers.

All the natives of the north-west coast are skilful and enterprising traders. At Queen Charlotte's Islands they not only dispose of furs and fish, but they cultivate potatoes, and hold, at stated periods, potato fairs, attended by the native traders from other islands, who again supply these and other vegetable products to the more remote traders inhabiting some of the rocky islands in Behring's Straits.

Touching religious matters, the Bishop of Columbia, in his *Journal* (1860), says:—

"Most of the Indians profess to know of the Seckally Tybee Papa, Great Chief Father. They point upwards; they say He sees all, is all-wise, and strong and good, and never dies. I found out to-day, from two Indians of this place, that Skatyatkeitlah is the same as Squaquash Suokum, or the sun. The sun is the Seckally Tybee Papa. Klanampton, the moon, is his wife, and the stars their children."

The canoes of the natives vary in size and form. Some are thirty feet long, and about three feet deep, cut out of a single tree—either fir or white cedar,—and capable of carrying twenty persons. They have round thwart pieces from side to side, forming a sort of binders, about three inches in circumference, and their gunwales incline outwards, so as to cast off the surge; the bow and stern being decorated sometimes with grotesque figures of men and animals. In managing their canoes, they kneel two and two along the bottom, sitting on their heels, and wielding paddles about five feet long; while one sits on the stern and steers with a paddle of the same kind. The women are equally expert in the management of the canoe, and generally take the helm. "It is surprising," says Mr. Dunn, "to see with what fearless unconcern these savages venture in their slight barks on the most tempestuous seas. They seem to ride upon the waves like sea-fowl. Should a surge throw the canoe on one side, and endanger its overturn, those to windward lean over the upper gunwale, thrust their paddles deep into the wave, apparently catch the water, and force it under the canoe, and by this action not merely regain an equilibrium, but give the vessel a vigorous impulse." Their houses, for the most part, have large potato gardens; this vegetable was first given to them by an American captain, and is now grown in abundance, and sold by them to the vessels entering their harbour, and to the traders at Fort Simpson.

In working their *cures*, the Takellies are never in the habit of employing medicines; of the virtues of herbs and plants indeed they are profoundly ignorant; and the only remedy with which they are acquainted is an operation into which pantomimic gesture and rough handling of the patient enter most largely. It seems probable that they have some strong faith in the efficacy of the vapour-bath or sweating-house. These houses are constructed so as to present in their interior the aspect of a beehive; they are covered over in such a manner that the heat cannot escape, and the patient remains in the midst of the steam engendered by the process of pouring water over red-hot stones, until he is compelled by a feeling of suffocation to rush out of the sweating-house and plunge into the adjoining river.

The houses of the Indians, which are constructed of wood and vary in length from twenty to seventy feet and in breadth from fifteen to twenty-five, are divided by partitions, and three or four families may be found residing in a one-roomed house. In the centre of each room is a space, six or eight feet square, sunk to the depth of twelve inches below the rest of the floor, and enclosed by four pieces of square timber; here they make the fire, which is of wood and fine bark. The partitions in the houses are intended to separate different families. Around the fire-place mats are spread, and serve as seats by day, and frequently as beds at night; there is, however, a more permanent bed made, by fixing in two, or sometimes three, sides of a room, posts reaching from the floor to the roof, and at the distance of four feet from the wall. From these posts to the wall one or two ranges of boards are placed so as to form shelves, on which they either sleep or stow their various articles of merchandise. In short, they are like berths in a ship. The uncured fish is hung in the smoke of their fires; as is also the flesh of the elk, when they are fortunate enough to procure any.

Their culinary articles consist of a large square kettle, made of cedar wood, and a few platters and spoons made of ash. Their mode of cooking is expeditious. Having put a quantity of water into their kettle, they throw into it several hot stones, which quickly cause the water to boil; then the fish or flesh is put in; the steam is kept from evaporating by a small mat thrown over the kettle. By this method a large salmon would be boiled in twenty minutes, and meat in a proportionably short space of time. They occasionally roast their fish and flesh on small wooden skewers.

The houses are generally entered by a door of a circular form, at each end, about two feet and a half in diameter. They are made in the building after it is erected. In effecting a passage you first introduce a leg, then bending low the body you press in head and shoulders: in this position you will have some difficulty in maintaining your equilibrium, for if you draw in the rest of the body too quickly it is a chance but you will find yourself with your head undermost. The natives bolt through them with the agility of a weasel.

Mr. Blanshard, late Governor of Vancouver Island, in his examination before the House of Commons' Committee, in 1857, said of the country about Fraser's River: "I have heard it very highly spoken of by everybody who has been there as being extremely fertile, and a soil of much the same quality as Vancouver Island."

The author of a pamphlet, published when interest was first awakened by the reports received from these latitudes, remarks:—"Lying near the banks of Fraser River there is a vast tract of low pasture-land, which might be made available for the breeding of cattle. Near Fort Langley, which is situated some sixty miles up Fraser River, about four miles of open land exist; and in the neighbourhood of Point Roberts, which is close to the line of boundary between the American and British territory, there is an additional tract of green, smiling prairie. About 200 miles from the sea-coast, along the banks of Thompson River, a magnificent extent of pasture-land stretches for some 300 miles, till it reaches Lake Okanagan at one of the sources of the River Columbia. If native report can be relied upon, large tracts of level pasture-land are to be met with near Tschesall, or Jarvis Inlet, which lies near the coast, midway up the Gulf of Georgia, and opposite Vancouver Island. A fine seam of sound workable coal has been discovered cropping out of the surface of the coal at Bellingham Bay, which is about twenty miles south of the boundary line, and is, consequently, an American possession. However, when the country shall be 'prospected,' a continuation of this seam will doubtless be found extending through the British territory. Already a small vein of the valuable mineral has been discovered lying on sandstone between Burrard Canal and Home Sound."

The same sort of hopeful language is addressed to the agricultural classes by one just returned (1862) from the Gold Fields :—

"The agriculturist most wanted in British Columbia at the present moment, is the small farmer, who here at home tills a few acres. The best way of working is in partnership with one or more men of a similar standing. The working in partnership will soon make enough to provide sure homes for wives and little ones; and when such is the case, wives and children, or sweethearts, can be sent for.

"I would not advise farming on a large scale, because, as I have said, the circumstances of to-day in a new colony may widely differ from those which will exist six months hence; and secondly, for the reason that large farming requires large labour; and as in British Columbia labour is, and will be for some years to come, extremely expensive, a large outlay of capital would be certain, while the chances of an equally large return would be doubtful.

"The farmer to make money at once in British

Columbia, is he who depends entirely on his own labour and common sense. Such a man can buy land on easy terms, land which in a few years will be worth fifty times the present price, and the yearly value of which will steadily rise, so that a sale at any time must be a source of profit. Nor is it necessary to pay the entire purchase-money before entering on possession. Instalments are taken, and so, although the price per acre is only four shillings and two-pence, yet an immediate payment of that sum upon the purchase of every acre is not required.

"This land will be a source of future wealth to the tiller's children, and certainly in the meantime be a maintenance for himself. I know of no better way in which the father, or the man who hopes some day to be a husband and a father, can do his duty to the existing or hoped-for children than in working hard himself as an agricultural emigrant for the benefit of those belonging to him, whom, in the course of nature, he will leave behind upon this earth.

"The emigrant, however, need not purchase land, unless he is willing. He can 'squat' upon unsurveyed lands, the title of which he may make sure of getting when they are surveyed, up to which time the only expense to which he can be put will be one small registration fee. Of course, good lands in the neighbourhoods of towns are pretty well all appropriated by this time, and I tell proposing settlers at once, that they must be prepared to rough it at first, with no other faces to look upon than their own, which will be cheerful enough if they work hard, and are determined to put a good face upon matters."

Though the extent of really good land in British Columbia is certainly small compared with mountain and forest tracts, yet it is very large in proportion to the number of inhabitants. The soil is everywhere fertile, though in many places it is extremely light and sandy.

Mr. Pemberton says:—

"The fertility of the soil in the neighbourhood of the gold-bearing rocks is very remarkable, and is indicated rather by the production from ordinary seed of gigantic roots and vegetables and fruits, than by crops of grain."

"An acre of land planted with 200 apple-trees would, at the end of three years, on a minute calculation, cost a proprietor from 30*l.* to 40*l.*, and the lowest selling price of an acre of apple-trees of that age is 200*l.*"

A miner who has lately (1862) returned from the Gold Fields, and who seems to have been a shrewd observer, remarks—

"All along the coast of Vancouver Island the fisheries may be described as beyond value. Salmon and herrings abound to an extent almost unknown elsewhere, and mackerel and cod are also found. The produce of these fisheries, along with the coal and timber, form the principal resources of the Island, as it is not well adapted for pastoral and not altogether for agricultural purposes.

"Of salmon there are four kinds, differing in the conformation of the head. The largest species is the same with that found in Great Britain. These fish ascend Fraser's River and its tributaries, from the Pacific, in immense shoals, proceeding towards the sources of the stream until stopped by shallow water. Having deposited their spawn, their dead bodies are seen floating down the current in thousands; few of them ever return to the sea; and, in consequence of the old fish perishing in this manner, they fail, in this quarter, every fourth year, and then the natives starve in all directions."

The salmon fishery commences about the middle of July, and ends in October. This is a very busy time with the natives; for upon their success in securing a supply of salmon for the winter depends their main support. Their method of catching the salmon is this: A certain part of the river is enclosed by a number of stakes, about twelve feet high, and extending about forty feet from the shore. A netting of rods is attached to the stakes, to prevent the salmon running through. A conical machine, called a vorveau, is next formed; it is eighteen feet long and five feet high, and is made of rods about an inch and a quarter asunder, and lashed to hoops with whatiap, a tough fibrous root used in sewing bark. One end is formed like a funnel, to admit the fish; two smaller machines, of nearly equal length, are joined to it. It requires a number of hands to attach these vorveaus to the stake, but they are very effective for their purpose. As soon as a cargo of salmon is caught, the natives bring it to the trading post in their canoes. A number of Indian women are employed by the trader, seated on the beach, with knives ready to cut up the fish. The salmon are counted from each Indian, for which a ticket is given for the quantity, large or small. After the whole of the salmon are landed, the Indians congregate round the trading shop for their payment, and receive ammunition, baize, tobacco, buttons, &c.

The women employed by the trader commence cutting out the back-bone and the heads off the salmon. They are then taken to the salter, and placed in a large hogshead, with a quantity of coarse salt. They remain there for several days, until they become quite firm. The pickle produced from these is boiled in a large copper kettle; and the blood, which floats by the boiling process to the top, is skimmed off, leaving the pickle perfectly clear. The salmon are then taken from the hogshead, and packed in tierces, with a little more salt; the tierces are then headed up, and laid upon their bilge, or widest part, leaving the bunghole open; the pickle is next poured in, until the tierce becomes full; a circle of clay, about four inches high, is then made round the bunghole, into which the oil from the salmon rises. This oil is skimmed off, and as the salmon imbibes the pickle more pickle is poured in, so as to keep the liquid sufficiently on the surface, and afford facility for skimming off the oil. When the oil ceases to rise to the circle round the bunghole, the salmon is supposed to be sufficiently prepared; the clay circle is cleared away, and the hole is bunged up. Salmon so cured will keep good for three years. This, soaked in a little water for a few hours previous to using, is delicious eating; but of course much of its deliciousness depends on its original quality when taken and its freshness when put in salt.

In immediate connexion with this part of the question, the following remarks from Mr. Pemberton's pen will be found of interest :—

"Salt on the coast for curing fish and beef, and other similar purposes, is exceedingly valuable. The Sandwich Island salt contains too much lime to be used for these purposes. Liverpool salt is retailed in the Sound, as high as 15c. per pound; this makes the subject worth investigating.

"A gallon of water from the Nanaimo spring produced 1 lb. of salt (a gallon of sea water produces 4½ oz.), the spring produced about a gallon a minute —the specific gravity of the water, taken roughly, was about 10·60. These springs will not of course compare with the brine springs of Worcestershire or those of Utah, which contain one-third their weight in salt, but for the reason mentioned the subject is not uninteresting. The offensive smell alluded to in the Report of Professor Taylor on two of these springs, arose from the decomposition which unavoidably took place, as the samples were bottled for nearly a year before they were placed in his hands."

"In October and November," says Colonel Grant, "the herrings frequent the bays in great numbers, and are caught by the natives with a long stick with crooked nails on it, with which they literally rake them into their canoes. The herring is precisely similar in quality to that caught on the west coast of Scotland, though somewhat smaller in size.

"All the trade *bonâ fide* with the island has been between it and San Francisco, the cargoes of salmon exported in the Hudson Bay vessels to the Sandwich Islands having been from Fraser River. In the space of a fortnight, during the month of August, the Hudson Bay Company has put up about 2000 barrels of salt salmon."

"Sturgeon," adds another writer, "often of enormous size, are found in abundance on the sand-bars at the entrance of the rivers. Soup made from them is rich, and resembles turtle. Isinglass is, of course, a drug in the market.

"Besides the above, the waters abound with halibut, cod, skate, flounders, herrings, dog-fish, and others too numerous to mention.

"Large cray-fish are found, but not lobsters; oysters are abundant."

Among the game found in the district are wild geese, swan, duck," and plover.

"To meet with any large game the sportsman has now, as might be expected, to go several miles from the settlement. His equipment for this purpose should consist of a double rifle with [illegible] sight, adjusted for point-blank shooting only, with strong charge, up to 100 yards, a hunting knife, and ammunition, an oil-skin and blanket, and an Indian or two to carry the game and keep the track, retracing, if re-

"It is interesting," says Mr. Pemberton, writing in 1860, "to observe the rapid increase of small birds near the settlements in proportion as birds of prey, such as eagles, hawks, kites, &c., are scared away. In this way flocks of wild pigeons, doves of two kinds, three varieties of thrush, meadow larks, several kinds of sparrows, wrens, humming-birds, tom-tits, and a bird that sings at night, evidently prefer quarters near a homestead to a precarious subsistence in the wilderness."

Mr. M'Lean says:—"A small animal, called by the natives quis-quis, or the whistler, from the noise it makes when surprised, and which appears from the descriptions to be the marmot, is also largely contributory to the sustenance of man, and the clothing of his person in a valuable fur. There is also the far less welcome animal, the wood rat, which fixes itself in the crevices of rocks, but has a preference for the dwellings of men; they live under the floors of outbuildings, and, forcing their way thence into the inside, carry off or destroy [illegible] quired, in which department they excel. Dogs, unless remarkably well trained, are better dispensed with.

"Of feathered game the duck-shooting is decidedly the best sport upon the coast. Of these there are fifteen or more different kinds; the best are found at river deltas and in swamps, where, as you walk, they continue to rise straight up, often at the sportsman's feet. Away from the settlement a good shot has killed thirty and forty in a day. A good retriever is indispensable, and I may add that there is nothing like an Eley cartridge and large bore for taking them down."—PEMBERTON.

everything within their reach. The difficulty of getting rid of them almost amounts to an impossibility. Their colour is grey, and in size and shape they differ little from the common rat; but the tail resembles that of the ground squirrel."

There are plenty of dogs. They are of a diminutive size, and strongly resemble those of the Esquimaux, with the curled-up tail, small ears, and pointed nose. They are valuable dead as well as living, their flesh constituting a chief article of food in the feast of the natives. "Dog Tray" seems well to deserve every consideration at the hands of the British Columbians. "When the natives," writes Mr. Harmon, "do not travel on foot, in their snow shoes made of two bent sticks interlaced with thongs of deerskin, they ride on sledges drawn by dogs. A couple of these tractable animals will draw a load of 250 pounds, besides provisions for themselves and their driver, twenty miles in five hours."

Of vegetables Mr. M'Lean thus writes:—"Such parts of the district as are not in the immediate vicinity of the regions of eternal snow, yield a variety of wild fruit, grateful to the palate, wholesome, and nutritious. Of these, the Indian pear is the most abundant, and most sought after, both by natives and whites; when fully ripe, it is of a black colour, with somewhat of a reddish tinge, pear-shaped, and very sweet to the taste. The natives dry them in the sun, and afterwards bake them in cakes, which are said to be delicious. When dried, these cakes are placed in wooden vessels to receive the juice of green fruit, which is expressed by placing weights upon it, in wooden troughs, from which spouts of bark draw off the liquid into the vessels containing the dry fruit; this being thoroughly saturated, is again bruised, then re-formed into cakes, and dried again; and these processes are repeated alternately, until the cakes suit the taste of the maker. Blueberries are plentiful in some parts of the district. There is a peculiar variety of them, which I preferred," writes Mr. M'Lean, "to any fruit I ever tasted; it is about the size of a musket ball, of a purple colour, translucid, and in its taste sweet and acid are deliciously blended." Mr. Cox adds to the list choke-cherries, gooseberries, strawberries, and red whortleberries; but the service-berries, he says, are with the Indians the great favourite. There are various kinds of roots, which the natives preserve and dry for periods of scarcity. There is only one kind which we can eat. It is called tas-chin, has a bitter taste, but when eaten with salmon imparts an agreeable zest, and effectually destroys the disagreeable smell of that fish when smoke-dried. St. John's wort is very common, and has been successfully applied as a fomentation in topical inflammations. A kind of weed, which the natives convert into a species of flax, is in universal demand.

The various quadrupeds, as well as the fish, found in British Columbia, are all used for the purposes of food. They are caught in strong nets made of thongs, or shot with arrows, or taken in traps made with large pieces of wood, which are so set as to fall and crush them while nibbling at the bait. The beaver and the bear* are considered the most valuable of these edibles, and are served up at the feasts which they make in memory of their deceased relatives, as companion *plats* with the dogs. When all other food fails, the natives make shift with a species of lichen, which is found in abundance on the sides of the rock.

The currency of British Columbia, in its native simplicity, consisted of haiqua, a round shell of extreme hardness, found in the neighbourhood of Nootka Sound. It varies in length from one to four inches, and is about half an inch thick, hollow, slightly curved, and tapering a little towards the end. It is highly estimated, the longest being the most valuable. It resembles the top shank of a common clay smoking-pipe: they are valued in proportion to the number that, when ranged on a string passing through their hollow tubes, extend a fathom's length. Forty to the fathom is or was supposed to be the fixed standard of excellence and worth; for instance, forty which make a fathom are worth nearly double fifty which make a fathom. Their extreme fragility, lightness, tenuity, and delicacy of colour are what appear to give them their importance. They are thus caught in Nootka Sound and along Vancouver Island :—A piece of deer's flesh or fish is dropped by a line to the bottom ; this they cling to ; and they are then drawn up, and carefully gutted and preserved.

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* To see one of these animals steeple-chasing over the fallen timber of the forest, or spring up a tree in its native state, it is difficult to conceive its being similar to that we have seen so tame and spiritless in the menagerie.—PEMBERTON.

But in proportion as the new colony has developed itself, it has become necessary that some monetary system of a fixed or recognised character should be adopted ; and in 1861 the Governor took this important question into serious consideration. In a despatch to the Colonial Secretary, dated November 14th, 1861, Mr. Douglas says :—

"Much inconvenience and loss have, ever since the formation of these colonies, been occasioned by the want of a circulating medium of fixed and recognised value, equal to the business demands of the country. The scarcity of coin has been so great, gold dust not being received for duties, that importers of goods have found it difficult at all times to make their custom-house payments, and, as is well known, are frequently compelled to borrow money for that purpose at exorbitant rates of interest, from two per cent. per month and upwards. Almost all the business of the country is transacted in gold dust of uncertain value, and it is easy to conceive the difficulty and inconvenience of adjusting payments by such means, when the holder and receiver are both alike subject to loss, and fearful of imposition.

"The effects of an over-restricted monetary circulation are now, however, operating so fatally in both colonies that it is indispensable to devise a remedy for an evil that is sapping the very foundations of our prosperity. To illustrate this fact, I would inform your Grace that at this moment there is an amount of gold dust in the hands of miners from Cariboo, residing at Victoria, exceeding one quarter of a million sterling; and so great is the present dearth of coin that it brings a premium of five per cent. and over when procurable, which is not generally the case, as men may be seen hawking bars of gold about the streets of Victoria, who cannot raise coin enough, even at the high rates of discount just mentioned, to defray their current expenses. The miners and other holders of gold are naturally incensed, and refuse to submit to this depreciation on the value of their property, when they know it can be converted into coin for the moderate charge of one-half of one per cent. at the United States Branch Mint in San Francisco; making an important saving to them of four-and-a-half per cent. They are consequently leaving Victoria by every opportunity; and it is most painful to witness a state of things which is rapidly driving population and capital from the country.

"As a safer remedy, and one more suitable to the actual circumstances of the colonies, I propose to take immediate steps for the manufacture of gold pieces, equal in value to the ten and twenty dollar American coins, and to bring them into general use as a circulating medium in both colonies.

"This plan does not contemplate refining the gold, as the expense would be greatly increased by that process: it is merely proposed to bring it to a uniform standard of fineness, without separating the natural alloy of silver which to some extent exists in all the gold of British Columbia.

"The pieces will be prepared at the Government Assay Office, and will bear the stamp of unquestionable character; and I am of opinion that by making the gold contained in them of the full current value of the piece, without taking the silver into account, which I propose should go as a bonus, they will not only answer as a cheap and convenient currency within the colonies, but also have the same exchange value when exported to other countries.

"I have submitted this plan for the consideration of the principal banking and commercial houses of Victoria, with the object of obtaining their views as to the probable effects of the proposed currency on the general business of the country, and more especially as to its exchange value when exported to pay for supplies: the single point which I think admits of any question, for in that case it would probably be treated as simple bullion.

"It was clearly proved by the statements of those gentlemen, that the actual cost of importing coin from other countries is rather over five per cent., which they believe to be the actual cost of our present metallic currency. Not having had sufficient time for consideration, they were not, however, prepared to give a decided opinion on the general measure, but they admitted that it would establish the value of the gold produced in British Columbia in the cheapest manner, and provide a metallic currency for the country at a cost of four per cent. less than is paid for imported coin, and offered no objections either to the plan or the basis of the proposed currency.

"If the principal banking and mercantile houses agree among themselves to receive this currency as a legal tender, no difficulty will be experienced in carrying the measure into effect; and no reason exists why it should not receive their hearty support, as it will surely tend to their advantage, not only by the saving, as before shown, of four per cent. on the cost of importing coin, and the complete removal of the cause which is draining the country of wealth and population, but also in the numberless other ways by which the investment of capital serves to promote the general prosperity."

The foregoing despatch was received in London on the 13th January, 1862, and the prospectus has since appeared of "The Chartered Bank of British Columbia and Vancouver Island." The association professes to be formed for the purpose of "affording additional facilities to the new colony," where the existing banking accommodation is represented to be at present inadequate to the requirements of an increasing trade and population. The scheme seems to have been maturely weighed, and its success has been hitherto great, the shares being, we believe, already at a premium. Still there is a good deal of truth in a letter which was published in the *Times* on the 9th April, 1862, and it remains to be seen how far this banking project will meet the wants of the colony, and whether it is not slightly premature. The *Times'* Correspondent, Mr. Bessemann, says :—

"Judging from the statements put forward in the prospectuses of joint-stock banking companies for Vancouver's Island, there must be a considerable amount of ignorance as to the nature of the banking operations in Victoria. It may therefore be of interest to some of your readers to know that at the commencement of the current year the following firms were engaged in the purchase of gold dust and bars at Victoria, Vancouver's Island :—1, Messrs. Wells, Fargo, and Co., bankers and general express agents; 2, Messrs. Macdonald and Co., bankers; 3, Messrs. Marchand and Co., assayers; 4, Messrs. Robertson and Co., assayers; 5, The Bank of British North America;—all subsisting on 1,500,000*l.* worth of gold, the greater part being bought by the first firm, Wells, Fargo, and Co., who are among the principal buyers and exporters of gold in California and Oregon.

"The branch of the Bank of British North America was established in 1859 as an experiment, and at the beginning of the present year the staff of officials was reduced, probably from diminished business.

"There is no authority for the supposition that large profits are to be derived from the circulation of bank notes, as up to the present time the experiment has never been tried on the Pacific coast. There will be less need for it in a short time, as the Government of British Columbia are about to issue pattern gold pieces, or tokens, of twenty dollars and ten dollars value, for circulation in the colony."*

The principal exports of British Columbia are coal, timber, lumber, oysters, salmon (10,000 barrels were exported in 1860), and oil; but the rush to the diggings has been so immense, that the exports during last year may be set down at nought. The exports in 1860 valued 50,000*l.*; the imports about 40,000*l.* These imports consisted of specie, provisions, and various merchandize."

The *Canadian News* of the 19th December, 1861, says:—

"The total value of imports into this colony for the last quarter is, from San Francisco, $234,956; from London, $57,530; from Portland, $45,093; from Port Townsend, $51,564; from Honolulu, $11,419, and from New Westminster, $14,171—Total, $414,733."

As Mr. Alfred Roche points out, "the harbours at Queen Charlotte's Islands, Vancouver Island, and the entrance of Fraser's River, are peculiarly adapted for the fitting-out of whalers; being in the neighbourhood of very valuable fishing grounds, and the country in their vicinity affording everything that is required for the construction of vessels, such as excellent timber, iron and copper, coal for forges, water-power for driving saw-mills, and even flax, growing wild in the interior, for the manufacture of sails and cordage! Thus the whale fishery alone, by creating a demand for many articles into which these products could be manufactured, might be made to give employment to numbers of persons of various trades and callings."

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* The *Daily News* of the 15th April, 1862, says, however:—"It is expected that the allotment of the shares in the Chartered Bank of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island will be completed on the 16th or 17th. It is a work of great difficulty, the applications reaching to nine times the amount of the company's capital."

CHAPTER III.

Description of the Coast and Interior—The Soil—Timber—Coal—The Vancouver Coal-Mining Company just established—Indian Women and Indian Babies—Stock—Horses.

As the emigrant steams eastward into the Straits of Juan de Fuca, he beholds on his right Washington Territory, and on his left Vancouver Island. Before him lies the Gulf of Georgia, dotted with islands, and in the background of the landscape is British Columbia, with the Cascade range and the snow-clad peaks of Mount Baker. The entrance to the Strait of Fuca is highly dangerous; but when a vessel is once safe within the Strait, safe anchorage and good harbours are abundant. There is, on the outer shore, Port San Juan, thirteen miles east of Point Bonilla. Soke Basin, thirty miles more inland, quite land-locked, and sufficiently capacious to receive a fleet; four miles from Soke Basin lies Beecher Bay; beyond Beecher Bay, Esquimault,[*] which, it is believed, is to be the new naval depôt of the Pacific; and three miles thence, Victoria Harbour. Of these, Esquimault is by far the best. "In point of shelter," observes Mr. Pemberton, "holding-ground, facility of ingress and egress, dock sites and wharfage, it is without a rival, and appears to be the natural port of entry for sailing ships which have made a long sea voyage to either colony, and to be the proper starting-point for a line of steamers connecting with British Columbia." "Victoria Harbour, however," continues Mr. Pemberton, "though it cannot compete with Esquimault as a naval depôt or as a port for clippers, is far from unimportant. Ordinary merchant vessels, by attending to the tides, can readily enter, and once within, there is ample space and depth."

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[*] "These were originally the sites of Indian villages; not here alone, but invariably, the Indians on the coast have shown great sagacity in choosing for their village sites spots the most favoured by nature, commanding and accessible at the same time. Fresh water, fuel, and drainage are attended to; facilities for boat navigation are never forgotten; and, whether

"The position and natural advantages of Vancouver Island," says Colonel Grant, in a paper read before the Geographical Society of London a few years ago, "would appear eminently to adapt it for being the emporium of an extended commerce. It contains valuable coal-fields, and is covered with fine timber. The soil, where there is any, is rich and productive; the climate good; and the singular system of inland seas by which it is environed teems with fish of every description. Capable of producing those very articles which are most in demand in neighbouring countries, and offering in its

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we look at their camps or from them, we quit them with the impression that the savage has a clear conception of, and knows how to appreciate, the picturesque and beautiful."—PEMBERTON.

numerous safe and commodious harbours almost unrivalled facilities for import and export, it would seem to require but a little well-directed exertion of energy and enterprise to make it the seat of a flourishing colony.

"The coast of the island," continues Grant, "trends in a north-west and south-east direction; its extreme length from Cape Scott to Point Gonzales being 270 miles, with a general breadth of from forty to fifty, and the greatest breadth is seventy miles, being from Point Estevan, at the south entrance of Clayoquot Sound, to Point Chatham, at the northern extremity of Discovery Passage; its least breadth, namely, from about twenty miles south of Woody Point to Port Beaux, is twenty-eight miles. There are, however, several places in which the arms of the sea, running inland from opposite sides of the island, approach very closely to each other. In the north, for instance, from Beaver Harbour to Koskiemo, the extremity of an inland loch, running in immediately opposite, the distance is only eight miles. From the Alberni canal on the west, to Valdes inlet, called by the natives Saatlam, on the east, the distance is only twenty-two miles; again, in the extreme south, a rough journey of about seven miles brings the pedestrian from Sanetch, on the Canal de Haro, to the end of Esquimault harbour on the Straits of Fuca; and from Nitinat, between Barclay Sound and Port St. Juan on the south-west, in a day and a half the savages pass over to the valley of the Cowichin in the south-east. The general aspect of the country throughout the island from the seaward is peculiarly uninviting. Dark, frowning cliffs sternly repel the foaming sea, as it rushes impetuously against them; and beyond these, with scarcely any interval of level land, rounded hills, densely covered with fir, rise one above the other in dull, uninteresting monotony; over these again appear bare mountains of trap rock, with peaks jagged like the edge of a saw, a veritable Montserrat, forming a culminating ridge, which may be said to run with little intermission, like a backbone, all down the centre of the island, from the northern to the southern extremity; nor does a nearer approach present one with many more favourable features in the aspect of the country.

"The soil under cultivation is sometimes a rich vegetable mould,[*] in other places a clayey loam, and in others somewhat sandy. It produces excellent wheat crops. Mr. Baillie has raised forty-four bushels to the acre off some land which he farms for the Hudson Bay Company, about three miles from Victoria. Heavy crops of peas have also been raised in the same place. I myself, at Stoke, raised excellent crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, turnips, and potatoes;[†] Swedish turnips in

[*] "The soil, where it is richest, in the river deltas, the valleys, and the plains, usually consists of black vegetable mould, six inches to three feet in depth, overlying a deep substratum of clay, gravel, or sand; it is generally covered with a luxuriant crop of fern, which it is very difficult to kill and tedious to eradicate."—PEMBERTON, 1860.

[†] "Turnips as large as hassocks, radishes as large as beets

particular did remarkably well, and produced a very heavy crop. I imported all the seed, except for wheat, peas, and potatoes, from Van Diemen's Land, through the Sandwich Islands. In all arable portions of the island the land is favourable to the production of green crops of every description; vegetables also grow particularly well, and esculent roots of all sorts attain a great size. Oats have generally been a failure, probably owing to their having been sown too late in the season.

"The prevailing winds along the coast in winter are from the south-east, varying from that to the south-west, and with occasional heavy northerly gales; the prevailing winds in the summer are from the north and north-west. Generally speaking, the climate is both agreeable and healthy; and not a single death that I am aware of has occurred among adults from disease during the six years that I have been acquainted with the island."

On the subject of timber, another writer, Mr. Pemberton, Surveyor-General of Vancouver Island, says:—

"Of oak there are two kinds; the timber is weak, and the trees usually show symptoms of decay.

"If curled maple is in England valuable for furniture, as I am told it is, it may be of service to some one to know, that it grows in abundance on the banks of the rivers in these colonies.

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or mangolds, and bushels of potatoes to a single stalk, are nothing astonishing."—PEMBERTON.

"The trunks of the arbutus grow very large, and the wood in colour and texture so much resembles box, that for many purposes it might supply the uses of the latter. It is, however, specifically lighter.

"The country also produces cedar, or rather cypress, juniper, yew, birch, poplar, sorbis, &c., but I never noticed ash, beech, or elm."

"Nanaimo," continues Colonel Grant, "is a flourishing little settlement; there is good anchorage all over the harbour, which is commodious, and sheltered from all winds; there is a rise and fall of fifteen feet at spring tides, and of about twelve feet at ordinary times; it is an excellent place to lay up and repair vessels: the bottom is in general a soft mud. The land in the immediate neighbourhood is poor and sandy, but there is a prairie about two miles off of some three or four miles in extent, on which the soil is rich and the surface tolerably level. At the south-west extremity of the harbour, a river flows in; it is about fifty yards wide at the mouth, with an average depth of about five feet, and a current of four knots per hour. About seven miles north-west of Nanaimo along the coast, is another excellent harbour, called 'Tutuis,' where also the carboniferous strata prevail, and there is a seam of coal, reported by the Indians to be some four feet thick.

"The coal at Nanaimo was first discovered by Mr. Joseph M'Kay, in May, 1850, who was directed to it by the Indians of the neighbourhood. On the 15th of September, the same seam, called 'the Douglas seam,' was discovered on Newcastle Island, and the Indians soon got out 200 tons. A pit was commenced by Mr. Gilmore, with ten regular miners, on the 17th September, and a shaft sunk to a depth of fifty feet, being through twelve feet of alluvium, eight feet of sandstone, and thirty feet of shale; the situation of the pit is at the north-west extremity of Nanaimo Harbour. Here they struck another seam of from six to seven feet in thickness, lying on conglomerate; they are now regularly working this seam in several parallel galleries, already extending to a considerable distance underground. The seam here runs nearly level, with a dip of only some seven degrees to the south-west; the greatest quantity of coal that has been mined from it was at the rate of 120 tons per week with ten regular miners.

"The same seam, 'the Douglas,' which was worked by the Indians on Newcastle Island and Commercial Inlet, has been discovered by Mr. M'Kay, who plied the pick and shovel indefatigably in search of it, cropping out on a peninsula at the upper end of Nanaimo Harbour; to this they are working a gallery on a level from the beach, and have already progressed several yards with it; the gallery is some six feet high and four or five feet broad. It is solidly lined and roofed with square timber; they excavate at the rate of about one yard per diem, one miner picking and propping, and two shovelling and carrying the dirt, &c., away.

"Work has thus been done at four different places: by the Indians at Newcastle Island and at Commercial Inlet, and by miners on the peninsula above-mentioned. These were all on the same seam of coal, which is called 'the Douglas;' the greatest thickness which has been anywhere seen of it is eight feet; its average may be six. It is distinguished by containing eight inches of fire-clay, and in the lower part of it are some seven or eight inches of cannel coal. In the other seam through which the pit is sunk, and which is the only one now worked, the coal is of a precisely similar quality, though without the fire-clay. Doubts having been entertained as to whether all these seams were not identical one with another, though raised by various causes, in different places and at different elevations, a bore has been sunk close by the pit to endeavour to discover whether the other seam, called 'the Douglas,' does not exist below. They have already gone through some sixteen feet nine inches of conglomerate, and forty-five of soft sandstone with layers of shale; they then reached a coal of similar quality to that in the Douglas seam, and after boring twenty inches through it, came to a fire-clay, through which they had gone twelve inches when the writer of this letter left on the 20th December. These strata lie at a considerable inclination, and are nearly similar to those which overlie the Douglas coal at Commercial Inlet, which are as follows:—

"Conglomerate, twenty feet; silicious sandstone, eight feet; shale, two feet; alternate layers, shale and sandstone, fourteen feet; sandstone, two feet; shale, one foot four inches; sandstone, two feet; shale, four inches; sandstone, four feet. Total, fifty-three feet eight inches.

"It is therefore probable that the coal which has been reached in the bore will be found to be identical with the Douglas seam, in which case there will be two seams, each of an average depth of six feet, overlying each other, at an interval of from fifty to sixty feet. The pit is situated within a few yards of the water-side, and vessels drawing sixteen feet can anchor close to it; the Hudson Bay Company have brought out an excellent engine, by which they raise the coal, and pump out such water as is accumulated in the pit; they are not much troubled with water, and all the pumping that is necessary does not keep the engine going above a quarter of the time.

"It is the opinion of the head miner that coal may be found anywhere within a circumference of two miles from Nanaimo, at a distance of fifty feet below the surface. Altogether there are few places to be met with where coal can be worked so easily and exported as conveniently as from Nanaimo, and it will be the Hudson Bay Company's own fault if they do not make a very profitable speculation of their possessions there.

"Altogether about 2000 tons of coal have as yet been exported from Nanaimo, of which one-half may be said to have been worked and loaded by

Indians, and the other worked by the miners. The first coal exported from the pit was brought by the *William* to San Francisco, in May, 1853: it is sold by the Hudson Bay Company at Nanaimo at $11 per ton, the Indian women bringing it alongside the vessels in their canoes. At San Francisco it now (January, 1854) sells at $28 per ton. The greatest objection is that it burns too quickly, and leaves behind a good deal of slag, which makes it difficult to keep the furnaces clean; it is, however, a very strong, rich coal, and full of sulphurous matter."

The value of the coal deposit at Nanaimo has of late attracted considerable attention, and a company, entitled the "Vancouver Coal-mining Company (limited)," is already in course of formation. From the prospectus, issued on the 29th March, 1862, it appears that the capital of this association will be 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each, and that of this sum the shareholders are expected to pay a deposit of 1*l.* per share on application, and 1*l.* 10*s.* on allotment.

As we regard this branch of the subject as one of deep interest to those who may now or hereafter seek a home in British Columbia, or who may be induced to invest capital in that colony, we annex herewith the heads of the prospectus, which fully explains all the attendant circumstances and the true nature and extent of the enterprise.

"This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and working the extensive and well-known Coal Fields situate at Nanaimo, on the east of Vancouver Island.

“The property comprises 6193 acres of land, and includes the safe and commodious Harbour of Nanaimo, in which are jetties for the loading of vessels at all periods of the tide, and the Islands of Newcastle and Douglas; on the former of which coal, of a superior quality for steam purposes, is being worked, the latter also containing coal.

“The circumstances under which this property is acquired are unusually favourable. From 1848 until 1859 the island of Vancouver was held in trust for the Crown by the Hudson Bay Company, who, on the discovery of coal in various parts of the Island, determined to engage in the working of the most promising seams. After full and careful examination of all the localities where coal was found, selection was made of Nanaimo, as offering coal of better quality and more abundant than elsewhere, with great facilities for its working and shipment. Dwelling-houses and stores were erected, wharves constructed, all necessary plant and machinery and parties of miners sent out from England, and a large outlay incurred in the formation of the establishment and gradual extension of the works. Coal in abundance, and of a superior quality, has since been raised, fully proving the extent and value of these coal fields.

“The surrender of their territorial rights over the Island has induced the Hudson Bay Company to sell these coal fields, with all the machinery, plant, and buildings, barges, &c., as they feel it expedient no longer to carry on in a locality apart from their future sphere of action, an undertaking so foreign to their general objects and purposes.

"Under these circumstances, a provisional contract has been entered into for the purchase of the property, at the price of 40,000*l.*, including all buildings, machinery, &c., part thereof—viz., 15,000*l.*—to remain on mortgage at 5 per cent. for five years. In addition to the 25,000*l.* of the purchase-money, which is to be paid within six months, a sum of 8000*l.* to 10,000*l.* will be required for sinking additional shafts and making tramways to the harbour.

"Upon a capital of 50,000*l.*, which, after providing for the purchase and first outlay, will amply suffice to work the coal fields so as to keep pace with the increasing demand, the directors can with certainty calculate on a profit of not less than 20 per cent. 1000 tons weekly could be raised by this expenditure, and could be readily sold at the price of 25*s.* per ton. Mr. Nicol, the energetic manager, calculated, in October, 1861, the cost of raising and shipping the coal, on the average of several years, at 16*s.* per ton—viz., raising the coal to the surface, 10*s.*; shipping and agency, 5*s.*; and taxes, 1*s.* This, at the present price of 25*s.* per ton, will give a profit of 9*s.* per ton; and a sale of even 500 tons weekly would, therefore, ensure a profit of 225*l.* a week, or nearly 12,000*l.* a year, upon the estimated expenditure of 50,000*l.*

"But the capability of the mines and the prospects of the demand are by no means limited to this quantity. Vancouver Island must become the great centre of the commerce of the North Pacific, and a chief coaling depôt for all the steamers engaged in that commerce. Steam navigation is rapidly increasing within the Strait of Fuca, on the Fraser, and on the Columbian Lakes. The selection of the noble harbour of Esquimault as the principal station for the British Navy in the Pacific, and the formation of an Admiralty Coal Depôt there, will have an immediate and important effect on the demand for the coal of Nanaimo, which has been already extensively used in the steamers of the Royal Navy. Coal of equal quality has not been found on the whole Pacific coast of North America, and the coal fields of Nanaimo are extensive enough to supply all the demand that can thus arise. There is besides a large consumption of coal in San Francisco and the other cities on or near the coast. San Francisco alone consumes 14,000 tons a month, the greater portion of which has hitherto been brought from England or the eastern coast of the States, and has been sold as high as *5l.* per ton. Latterly, some portion of this supply, and especially that for the gas works, has come from Nanaimo, and Mr. Nicol expresses a very confident opinion, that, by a slight reduction in the price, the sale of the Nanaimo coal there might be very largely increased."

"South of Nanaimo," pursues Grant, "there are three ranges of islands, running parallel with each other, between the mainland of Vancouver Island and what is generally laid down as such on all charts hitherto published. The channels between these islands are too intricate for a sailing vessel of large size to attempt with any certainty or security. I found no bottom at twenty fathoms in any part between Nanaimo and Sanetch. The bottom throughout these passages is rocky and uneven, and in the narrows the current sets a vessel towards the rocks, without her helm having any power to guide her away from them.

"Fifteen miles northward of Cape Bonilla is Cape Carrasco, the southern point of the entrance to Barclay Sound, a broad bay open to the south-west; its breadth at the entrance is about fifteen miles, and it runs inland with nearly the same breadth to a distance of seventeen miles. A number of rocky islets stretch across the entrance; leaving, however, two broad, open channels, both towards the south-east side. One of these channels is about a mile and a half broad; it is close to the eastern shore of the Sound; the other is about three miles and a quarter broad, and is a little farther to the north-west; it cannot be mistaken, being clearly visible from the outside, and also distinctly marked by a very singular rock, with only three fir-trees on it, appearing precisely like the three masts of a vessel. The channel is immediately to the north of this rock, and the Sound is more open after entering within it. There are, however, a few islands interspersed all over it, most of them inhabited by small fishing families of the savages. There is anchorage near all these islets, with good holding-ground, but the water deepens suddenly, and vessels in search of anchorage have to stand very close in-shore. The *Honolulu* anchored in ten fathoms water within sixty yards of the beach, under the lee of an island called Satchakol, about two miles within the Ship Rock above mentioned.

"On the eastern shore, about four miles from the outside, there is a small inlet, called by the natives 'Tsucheiss,' with a small tribe living on it, the chief of whom is called 'Klayshin.' The inlet is about 300 yards broad at its entrance, and branches out into two arms from seventy to eighty yards wide each. The first of these arms extends in an easterly direction for about one mile and a half, sometimes narrowing to a breadth of forty yards, sometimes expanding to 200; it ends in an open bay 500 yards broad. The land on either side is broken and rocky, though not high; there appears little soil, and the timber is stunted and scrubby. There is no open land either on this or on the other arm, which runs in for about a mile to the south, parallel with the shores of the Sound. The land on either side of that arm is level woodland, but the soil is not rich and the wood is worthless, being principally stunted Canadensis. Generally speaking, the country all round Barclay Sound is broken and rocky, thickly covered with useless wood, and unfit for cultivation or settlement. There is no truth in reports which have been circulated of there being coal on Barclay Sound; the Indians, however, describe some coal as existing at Munahtah, in the country of the Cojucklesatuch, some three days' journey into the interior, at the back of Barclay Sound. At the back of Barclay Sound, on a small river, about two days' journey into the interior, live the only inland tribe whose existence is known of in Vancouver Island. They are called the 'Upatse Satuch,' and consist only of four families, the remainder having been killed by the Nanaimo Indians.

"About seven miles to the south-east of Barclay Sound, and between it and Cape Flattery, is a bay which has never yet been mentioned, called by the natives 'Chadukutl.' This bay is about three miles broad, and runs back a considerable distance. A rocky barrier runs across the entrance, leaving a channel only about 100 yards broad, which no vessel should attempt to enter for the first time without having an Indian pilot. At the upper end of the bay runs in a fine river, about 200 yards broad at the mouth, and there is a frontage of about three miles of fine level woodland, running apparently a considerable distance inland. The bay is about eight miles deep, and its shores are inhabited by one tribe about 400 in number.

"The next harbour north of Barclay Sound is Clayoquot, where there are established 3000 Indians, who are anxious to trade with the whites, but as yet none but Americans have been among them. A bar with from four to six fathoms on it runs across the entrance to the harbour. There is good anchorage inside, and shelter from all winds; the arm runs a considerable distance into the interior, but there is no open land that I am aware of, and the surface of the woodland is rocky and broken. Clayoquot is distant about sixty-five miles from Port St. Juan. From this northward to Nootka there is no land along the sea-board that has the appearance of being available for any useful purpose.

"At Nespod, a little north of Nootka, coal is reported by the Indians. Nespod is called Port Brooks on the charts.

"At Koskeemo, north of Nespod, and opposite to Beaver Harbour, a seam of coal, two feet in thickness, has also been discovered, but neither from its situation nor its nature can it be worked to any advantage. There are three arms in Koskeemo, in either of which there are good shelter and anchorage for vessels. Immense quantities of fish are caught here by the Indians. Between Clayoquot and Nootka is Port San Raphael or Achoest, which is a bight of the sea, running inland three or four miles. There is no available land near it. The water is deep, but close in to the inner end there is anchorage near the shore and good shelter.

"From Koskeemo round the north to Beaver Harbour there is no land that we are aware of fit for purposes of colonization or settlement; the coast is rocky, though not high, and a vessel would do well to keep clear of it in winter. A very heavy sea is constantly running there, and there is no known harbour to which vessels can put in for shelter.

"The women of Vancouver Island have seldom or ever good features; they are almost invariably pug-nosed. They have, however, frequently a pleasing expression, and there is no lack of intelligence in their dark hazel eyes; they are more apt to receive instruction than the other sex. They are ready with the needle, naturally industrious in their habits, and of their own accord weave very ingenious patterns from the coarse materials above enumerated.*

"The colour of the natives of Vancouver Island is a reddish brown. The features of both sexes are very much disfigured by the custom prevalent among them of flattening their heads. This is effected during infancy, when the child is a few weeks old and while the skull is yet soft, by placing three or four pieces of the inner bark of the fir or cedar on the top of the forehead, and binding them tightly round the head. Here they are left until the desired distortion has been thoroughly effected. This process completely flattens the forehead, and indeed flattens the whole front face; the effect is hideous, and it is a question whether it does or does not interfere with the intellect of the child. I am inclined to think it does not, as the brain is not injured, though its position in the head is undoubtedly altered. The baby of these latitudes is a most independent little fellow. Swathed in his covering of soft bark, and bound tightly up in an outer case or hammock of stronger bark, he is suspended by a hempen string to the extremity of one of the lower boughs of an overhanging fir or cedar tree; and there, while his mother strays to a short distance through the woods in quest of roots or berries, the gentle zephyr rocks him to sleep, and sings to him a sweet lullaby, as it murmurs through the leaves of his natural bower."

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* "The Indian women take a full share of labour—even more is carried by them than by men; they were paddling with as much strength. One woman was steering a canoe, and came very close to us as we passed it. She had eight silver rings on two fingers of her left hand, and six bracelets. They have ear-rings also, and sometimes armlets. These ornaments are made out of silver dollars."—Bishop of Columbia's *Journal of a Tour in B.C.*—1860.

On the subject of stock, a writer already quoted makes the following remarks:—

"Of stock, every variety, good, bad, and indifferent, can be procured on the coast.

"The American horned cattle are particularly fine, and numbers of Durhams and Devons have been imported to San Francisco; the Spanish cattle, which are the most numerous, are smaller, and very like the Guernseys at home.

"In Vancouver Island the best breeds of sheep, both Southdowns and Merinoes, are abundant.

"The native horses of the country make admirable saddle hacks, and are most enduring, but have a singular repugnance to draught. The carriage horse is constantly met with."

Governor Douglas, in a despatch to the Colonial Secretary, dated July 16th, 1861, says:—

"A good deal of running stock has been brought in for sale; but, with the exception of eight or ten persons, there are no farmers in the district. One of those, Mr. McLean, lately of the Hudson Bay Company's service, has settled on a beautiful spot, near the debouch of Hat River, and is rapidly bringing his land into cultivation. He has a great number of horses and cattle of the finest American breeds; and from the appearance of the crops there is every prospect that his labour and outlay will be well rewarded. He is full of courage, and as confident as deserving of success. He entertains no doubt whatever of the capabilities of the soil, which he thinks will, under proper management, produce any kind of grain or root crops. The only evil he seriously apprehends is the want of rain and the consequent droughts of summer, which has induced him to bring a supply of water from a neighbouring stream, by which he can at pleasure irrigate the whole of his fields."

CHAPTER IV.

The Route—The Outfit—What to take and what not to take—Prices of Provisions—Female Emigration—"A Returned Digger."

THE ways to this Eldorado are several. There is, first, the route to the Isthmus of Panama. You leave Southampton on the 2nd or 17th of the mouth (unless those dates fall on a Sunday, and then on the day following), and are due at Colon or Aspinwall in about nineteen days; and since the completion of the Panama Railroad, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company have made new arrangements, by which each steamer lies over at Panama for two weeks, so as to make it certain that she will be ready to start at the appointed time.

The fare altogether, including the transit across the Isthmus, is 35*l.* and upwards, and the journey to the gold fields occupies, under the new and improved arrangements, about forty days. From Aspinwall to San Francisco is about fourteen days by steamer; thence you travel, always by steam, to the mouth of Frazer's River, and from that point you are conveyed in a similar manner to the theatre of operations—the gold fields. Here is the Bishop of Columbia's description of a Frazer-river steamboat in 1860:—

"Some things in Columbia I was prepared for, but I certainly did not expect to see so good accommodation as afforded by the steamboats. The cost of the *Moody* was 2000*l*. It pays the shareholders nearly 50 per cent. It could accommodate 200 passengers. I had a cabin, the three nights I was on board, *superior* to that I had in the *La Plata* or *Solent*—ships of the West India Mail Company. Provisions were good and abundant. Thus, for dinner the first day, soup, sturgeon, mutton, beef, bacon, potatoes, beans, carrots, apple-tart. For breakfast there were fried sturgeon, bacon, mutton-chops, hot rolls, bread, butter, tea, coffee, &c. &c. Silver forks and spoons; everything very clean and well cooked. Prices are high; four shillings a meal, besides the passage money. The captain was a Scotchman; the purser an American citizen, born in Ireland; the steward an African; the steward's boy a Chinaman; the pilot an American, and so on. Such is a Frazer-river steamboat."

An eminent firm in London* has announced that it will despatch from the London Docks on the 24th of May, 1862, the iron screw steamship *Tynemouth*, of 1650 tons gross register, and 600 indicated horse-power, for Victoria, Vancouver Island, calling, if required, at San

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* W. S. Lindsay & Co., of Austin Friars.

Francisco.* This fine ship has three decks, with great space and very superior accommodation for cabin and especially intermediate passengers. She has just been fitted with new engines and boilers, and all the most recent improvements in hull, spars, and machinery.

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* The rates of passage-money are as follows:—

First Class Cabin.—From eighty guineas upwards, according to accommodation required, including cabin furniture, bedding, &c., and a liberal table, but exclusive of wines and spirits.

Second Class.—Forty guineas each, including provisions according to an ample scale, which will be found annexed, but exclusive of liquors and cabin furniture.

Third Class.—Thirty guineas each, including provisions according to the Government scale, as annexed.

Children of twelve years and upwards will rank as adults; those from one to twelve years as half; infants, free.

One-half of the passage-money must be paid on securing the passage, and the balance not later than the 20th May.

First cabin passengers will be allowed 20 cubic feet of baggage freight free; second and third class, 10 cubic feet. All excess will be charged for at the rate of 5*s.* per foot.

The ship carries an experienced surgeon.

A stewardess will be provided for attendance to the cabin passengers.

The scale of provisions will be as follows:—

For second-class passengers, each adult per week.

1 lb. Preserved meat.
1 „ Soup and bouilli.
1 „ Assorted soups.
½ „ Preserved and assorted fish.
¾ „ India beef.
¾ „ Mess pork.
1 „ Rice.
4 „ Bread.
3 „ Flour.
1 „ Oatmeal.
¼ pint Peas.
1 „ Preserved milk.
½ lb. Raw sugar.
½ „ Refined ditto.

2 oz. Tea.
½ lb. Coffee.
½ „ Butter.
½ „ Cheese.
1 „ Raisins and currants.
¾ „ Suet.
¼ pint Pickles.
¼ „ Vinegar.
6 oz. Lime-juice.
½ „ Mustard.
½ „ Pepper.
1 lb. Preserved potatoes.
1 oz. Salt.
21 quarts Water.

In connexion with this branch of the matter, it is proposed to introduce some remarks respecting the proposed *Columbian Emigration Society*, intended to embrace both sexes. At the meeting of the Columbian Mission in London, on the 27th February last, Mr. Garrett observed on this point:—"There is another subject which has been alluded to to-day, and which has met with the strongest sympathy—I mean the Columbian Emigration Society, which, with the Divine blessing, may become a powerful handmaid to the Mission.

For third-class passengers, each adult per week.

5¼ lb. Biscuit.
1 ,, Preserved meat.
½ ,, Soup and bouilli.
1 ,, Mess pork.
1¼ ,, India beef.
½ ,, Preserved and salt fish.
2 ,, Flour.
1 ,, Oatmeal.
6 oz. Suet.
½ lb. Raisins and currants.
⅜ pint Peas.
½ lb. Preserved potato.

½ lb. Rice.
1 ,, Raw sugar.
1¾ oz. Tea.
3½ ,, Coffee.
6 ,, Butter.
2 ,, Salt.
½ ,, Mustard.
¼ ,, Pepper.
1 gill Vinegar.
1 ,, Pickles.
6 oz. Lime-juice.
21 quarts Water.

Second and third class passengers will have to find bed, bedding, towels, knives, forks, spoons, plates, cups and saucers, water-can, &c.

Wine, beer, and spirits will be procurable on board, at reasonable prices.—*Extract from Prospectus.*

Let me give a distinct idea of what we wish. The latest time at which emigrants ought to leave Great Britain is the 30th of May. On that day we hope that a band of emigrants—respectable people, people fitted to take that position in life in the colony which Mr. Brown in his letter points out—will go forth. We hope we shall not only find the proper people, but have the funds with which they may be sent. A suggestion of a very practical nature has been made by a gentleman who is well versed in works of benevolence of this nature. It is this. At Coventry, at the present moment, there is an amount of distress which it is almost impossible for the local resources at Coventry to relieve. If it were possible to show many of those who are there in a state of actual distress, a high road by which they may secure for their industry and skill a sphere in a new land—by which they may find a home, and a vigorous one, in this distant colony—great good would no doubt be done; and this new Emigration Society might thus be made a valuable agent in a great work." *

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* The movement commenced at the Columbia Mission meeting, held at the London Tavern on the 27th March, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, has already made good progress. Amongst the contributors are Miss Burdett Coutts, 100*l.*; the Hudson's Bay Company, 100*l.*; Messrs. Cavan, Lubbock, and Co., and Anthony Gibbs and Son, 100*l.* each; an anonymous subscriber gives 50*l.* About 2000*l.* will be required to commence operations on a good footing. The plan upon which the emigration is to be carried out is such as to ensure the fullest encouragement and protection

An equally expeditious route is that by which passengers are conveyed to New York by the Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia Company's steamers, leaving Liverpool every Wednesday, and thence by the Atlantic and Pacific Steam-ship Line, on the 1st, 11th, and 21st of each month. The length of passage is also about thirty-five days. The passage-money from London to San Francisco is 28l. 12s.*

If you select the overland route, the hotel bills on your way form a large item; but then you get to the diggings in probably little more than six weeks; and before your friend, who has economised and gone round by Cape Horn, has made his appearance, you have realized, perhaps, a little fortune. Meanwhile, the first-class passenger round Cape Horn has paid from 60l. to 73l. 10s., the second-class from

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to females. The friends of the mission in England and the Bishop of Columbia co-operate heartily in the work.—*Daily News*, *March* 22, 1862.

* Monnery and Co's. General Outfitting Warehouse, 165, Fenchurch-street.—A large assortment of clothing, ready-made linen, hosiery, &c., is kept ready for immediate use. Sea-bedding, chests, cabin and camp furniture of every description; iron bedsteads, mess utensils, portable stoves, tents, &c. The Ladies' Department is superintended by an experienced female. Cabins fitted with bedding and every requisite on the shortest notice. First class, 4l. 10s. and upwards; second class, from 1l. 1s. to 2l. 15s. Bedding and mess utensils, complete for a steerage passenger, from 10s. 6d. to 21s. Lists, with prices, forwarded upon receipt of a postage stamp. Passengers' luggage received from the country and warehoused free of charge. Berths fitted.

40*l.* to 52*l.* 10*s.*; and it will be four months before he lands at Vancouver. There is another route through Canada and the United States, over the Rocky Mountains. The traveller by this route pays from 13*l.* to 27*l.*, according to class, booking throughout from London to St. Paul in Minnesota. Thence to Pembina is 450 miles, thence to Carlton House 600 miles, thence to Edmonton 400 miles, thence to Frazer's River (a branch of Frazer) 200 miles; total from St. Paul, 1650. It has been estimated that, "Viewing the facilities afforded by the face of the country, and the continuous line of the Hudson Bay Company's posts, this journey can be accomplished in seventy days, at an expense to a company of ten persons of $180 each."

It may be useful to know that parcels and packages are forwarded to Vancouver Island and British Columbia, by every opportunity, through Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s express, whose agents are Eives and Macey, 61, King William-street, London-bridge.

A person who has had practical experience, says:—"Spring is the best season in which to arrive. The *pons asinorum* is, how to get there and at what cost. The shortest route is by the Isthmus of Panama, which can be reached *viâ* New York, or by the West India steamers to St. Thomas's. The latter route ought to be adopted only in winter and spring, as the emigrant may be detained some days both at St. Thomas's and Panama, waiting for the connecting steamers, and both those places are subject to the visitations of yellow fever. St. Thomas's has been much maligned for its heat and insalubrity, but I heard a Glasgow skipper say it was the finest climate he was ever in, as he was 'aye drinking and aye dry.' Whether by St. Thomas's or New York, no emigrant need calculate on reaching his destination under *50l.* or *60l.*"

The following details as to the requisite outfit will probably be acceptable :—

SINGLE MAN'S OUTFIT.

	s.	*d.*
1 beaverteen jacket (warm lined) . . .	6	6
1 ditto waistcoat with sleeves . . .	4	6
1 ditto trousers (warm lined) . . .	6	6
1 duck ditto	2	3
1 coloured drill jacket	2	9
1 ditto trousers	2	6
1 ditto waistcoat	2	0
1 pilot overcoat or jacket	10	6
Or, 1 waterproof coat	7	6
2 blue serge shirts, or Jersey frocks . .	4	6
1 felt hat	2	0
1 Brazil straw hat	0	10
6 blue striped cotton shirts, each . . .	1	6
1 pair of boots	8	6
1 pair of shoes	5	0
4 handkerchiefs, each	0	6
4 pairs worsted hose, each	1	0
2 pairs cotton hose, each	0	9
1 pair braces	0	8
4 towels, each	0	4
Razor, shaving-brush, and glass . . .	1	6

SINGLE WOMAN'S OUTFIT.

	s.	d.
1 warm cloak, with a cape	6	0
2 bonnets, each	3	10
1 small shawl	2	3
1 stuff dress	11	0
2 print ditto, each	6	0
6 shifts, each	1	3
2 flannel petticoats, each	2	6
1 stuff ditto	3	9
2 twill cotton ditto	2	0
1 pair of stays	2	6
3 caps, each	0	10
4 pocket handkerchiefs, each	0	3
2 net ditto for neck, each	0	5
4 nightcaps, each	0	7
4 sleeping jackets, each	1	4
2 black worsted hose, each	0	10
4 cotton ditto, each	0	10
1 pair of shoes	2	9
1 ditto boots	5	0
6 towels, each	0	4

Each person also requires—

1 bowl and can, 2s. 3d.; 1 knife and fork, 1 deep tin plate, 1 pint drinking mug, 1 table-spoon, 1 tea-spoon, 1s. 6d.

An assortment of needles and thread, 1s.

2lbs. of marine soap, at 4d.
1 comb and hair brush, 1s.
3 sheets, each 1s.
2 pots blacking, each 4½d.

2 shoe brushes, each 7½*d.*
1 pair of blankets, 7*s.*
1 counterpane, 1*s.* 3*d.*
1 strong chest, with lock, 8*s.* 9*d.*

A married couple require only one set of these articles, but of larger size.

1 linen clothes bag, 1*s.* 9*d.*
1 mattress and pillow, 5*s.*

Cost of above outfit for a single man, about	£5	10
Ditto ditto single woman „	5	15
Ditto ditto married couple „	10	10

But we believe that the outfit for Vancouver Island will, in a great measure, depend on the route intended to be taken, and also whether it is intended on arrival to proceed to the diggings, or to adopt farming or mercantile pursuits. In either case the party should apply to a respectable house, accustomed to supply articles adapted to the colony. Monnery & Co., 165, Fenchurch-street, London, supply, gratis, an illustrated price list, suitable for all classes.

For the overland route, bedding and mess utensils are not required for the journey ; but it is advisable, if intending to proceed up the country, to take the same packed in a waterproof valise, as the same is purchaseable here at half the price which it fetches in the colony, and can always be disposed of to advantage if not ultimately wanted. The following list of necessaries should be provided :—18 white or printed shirts, 6 coloured flannel-shirts, 6 night-shirts, 3 dozen collars, 24 pocket handkerchiefs, 3 cravats, 24 pair cotton socks or stockings, 6 pair wool do., 3 pair linens, 6 pair drawers, 6 under-waistcoats, 1 tweed suit, 1 pilot coat and trousers, 3 pair duck or jean trousers, 2 linen or alpaca coats, 2 serge shirts, 1 pair strong leather gaiters, 1 each, straw and felt hat, waterproof coat, trousers and hat, 2 or 3 pair strong boots, and 2 overland trunks or chests. The whole of the above may be obtained for about 15*l.* or 20*l.*, but the present stock of clothing may be deducted from above, this list being the entire quantity that each person should provide themselves with for the overland route. If it is the intention of the emigrant to proceed by ship the whole distance, sufficient under-clothing should be taken to last from four to five months, as only small articles can be washed on the voyage. First-class passengers will be required to find their own bedding and cabin requisites, but not mess utensils; the second and third-class passengers will be required to find bedding and mess utensils, viz.: a mattress, 2 blankets, a counterpane or wool rug, 4 pair sheets, 4 pillow cases, a cabin lamp, a washstand or basin and ring to hold the same, a can or bag to hold the daily supply of water, 2 knives and forks, 2 spoons, 2 metal or enamel plates, 2 cups and saucers, 1 drinking mug, 2 lbs. yellow and 3 lbs. marine soap for washing with sea water, and a bag with lock to contain the soiled linen. The whole can be obtained from 21s. to 60s., according to quality.

If the emigrant purposes to proceed to the diggings, a tent, 2 mining shovels, 2 pickaxes, a crowbar, galvanized iron buckets, an American axe, a set of splitting wedges, and a camp stove should be provided. If a party is going together, a tent and stove will suffice for six or eight persons.

We think that "A Returned Digger" must be heard on the question of dietary precautions:—

"If I were asked what provisions I should recommend the emigrant to take as a kind of *addition to those provided* by the ship's master, I should say a case or so of *preserved meats and preserved vegetables*—especially the latter, which when good are beyond all value.

"Another indispensable thing is lime-juice; I believe that on two or three occasions I owed my life (and several of my fellow-travellers owed their lives in turn to me) to a large supply of lime-juice, which was more than enough to satisfy us all. The value of this health-preserver cannot be too highly estimated. If you ask me how much you shall take, I answer, just as much as ever you like; for what you don't want you will be able to give away in the best-directed charity you ever had a hand in. You should see the little children enjoy a draught of water in which a little lime-juice has been dropped; it is a real pleasure to look upon the sight. This liquor seems to cure bad water, and to save every creature who uses it carefully from such illnesses as fever, costiveness, scurvy, and all affections of the skin. There, I have known it to cure toothache, and even inflamed eyes. It seems to me, that on ship-board lime-juice is a regular universal medicine.

"Whatever you take with you, *leave alone* such things as *potted meats and all high-seasoned things*, which will only heat your blood. And I can tell you the *'tween-decks of a ship will send your blood up to fever heat quite soon enough*. Perhaps, however, you should not forget some *preserved milk*, which you will find of immense benefit, and a great luxury, while a few pounds of tea will cheer you, and will pay you for the outlay upon it."

On the value of temperate habits to any one who is intending to try his fortunes in the Gold Fields of British Columbia, it is impossible to dwell too much. In England, the use of ardent spirits is pernicious enough; but in British Columbia it is absolute and speedy destruction. A practical and intelligent writer, whom we have already had occasion to quote, is particularly earnest on this point:—

"I tell you plainly, there is nothing so pulls a man back at gold digging as spirits. They take all the strength out of him; they unman him for a time, and the expense is so great, spirits (especially the good) costing an enormous figure at all gold settlements, that I really think the man who picks up half an ounce a day, and doesn't spend a grain of it in drink, makes, in reality, more by the end of the month than the miner who picks up four ounces a day, and drinks when it pleases him. As a proof of the truth of what I am saying, I may declare that the owners of spirit stores are always safe to make fortunes.

"This warning is worth something, for candidly I tell you that the temptation to drink is very great. Whether it is the excitement natural to a gold digger's life, or whether it is the desire to be luxurious and dashing, I know not; but this is certain, that an enormous per-centage of gold diggers (and this I know from my own observation, and the experience of other sober men much older than I am myself,) an enormous per-centage of gold diggers, I say, drink extravagantly of spirits.

"These diggers who 'drink their gold,' as they say in *Australia*, never are worth anything, and they generally die in ditches, unless men more temperate than they have been give them hut or tent-room.

"Again, there is another and still greater argument against spirit drinking as a custom with gold diggers. It is this: that those who take much spirits are unable to bear the roughing of a miner's life; and the consequence is, that they are ready at any moment to take any disease which may be common; and not unfrequently, in fever times, they fall down in masses, and never get up again."

CHAPTER V.

Inter-Oceanic Railway—Red River—British Columbia Overland Transit Company—Gold in the Saskatchewan—Proposal for a Line of Electric Telegraph—The Gold Fields of Cariboo—Their Riches—Concurrent Testimony on this Point—The Canadian and Local Press.

We trust that the commencement of the Halifax and Quebec Railway will be hailed as marking out the first portion of that Great Inter-Oceanic Railway, running wholly through British territory, which shall not only convey colonisation to our Pacific shores, but which commerce shall adopt as its great highway between the West and the East. There can be no rational doubt, as Lord Bury has pointed out, "that our trade in the Pacific Ocean with China and with India must ultimately be carried on through our North American possessions." This Inter-Oceanic Railway would lessen the distance between London and Pekin 8001 miles, and would reduce the journey to thirty days. It would lessen the distance between Liverpool and Vancouver Island to 5650—the distance between Liverpool and Panama alone being 4100—and would secure sea-access at each extremity; for while, on the Atlantic coast of British North

America, the magnificent harbour of Halifax is the only safe port we have accessible at all seasons, the rest being closed by ice for six months of the year, on the Pacific we have, in the harbour of Esquimault, Vancouver Island, the finest port in the world, there being along the whole remainder of that coast, thence to Valparaiso, scarcely a safe and convenient port. Even that of San Francisco, as Mr. C. Fitzwilliam, from personal observation, informs us, is so excessively large that it cannot be said to be safe at all times.

It is therefore gratifying to find that a committee has been named for completing the formation of this great scheme, and that Mr. J. Nelson has been appointed secretary. On the 1st March, 1862, Mr. Nelson addressed a letter to all the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, in which he explained the "postal, commercial, and military importance of the proposed line of railway communication betweeen Halifax and Quebec." In an article in the *Canadian News*, of the 20th March, 1862, the writer says:—"It would be of immense advantage to Canada if the Provincial Government would at once take steps to organise an effective transportation line through Canada to British Columbia, either by the Fort William or the Minnesota route, with escorted caravans from Red River leaving at regular periods. This route would be less expensive than that by Panama, more healthy, and would prepare the travellers for the labours before them. Such an enterprise would draw an immense amount of travel to our shores, create strong bonds between Canada and the Pacific provinces, and eventually lead to the settlement of many of the fortunate gold-seekers in our midst. It would be a great step towards the construction of the Pacific railway through British territory, by gradually developing the capabilities of the route, dispelling prejudices, and proving how small are the physical difficulties in the way of its accomplishment. *Hundreds of thousands of emigrants will seek British Columbia this year*, the greater part of whom would prefer the land route, if the Canadian Government would manfully apply itself to the organisation of effective transportation trains."

Moreover, there is the value of Red River itself* to recommend the scheme, as well as the recent discovery of gold on the Saskatchewan River.

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* I have always felt an active living interest in everything that concerns what is usually called among us "the Red River country." In the very heart of the continent, on a territory 500,000 miles in extent, where Lord Selkirk, half a century ago, declared that there was field enough for a population of 30,000,000 souls, the only speck of colonization is some 6,000 or 7,000 inhabitants in and about Fort Garry. No American community has ever undergone a sterner apprenticeship to fortune, or been so widely underrated by Imperial and Canadian statesmen. The greater part, if not all that region, was an integral part of Canada at the conquest, and to Canada the people of the Selkirk settlement most naturally looked for protection against the monopolizing policy of the Hudson Bay Company. It is not creditable to us to be forced to admit that hitherto they have looked this way in vain. No Canadian can have read with satisfaction the latest intelligence from that kindred community; no Canadian can learn with satisfaction that it was left for the infant state of Minnesota, with a census not exceeding alto-

gather this little island of Montreal, to do for them what they naturally expect from us—that while they are interrogating our ministers as to their policy on the Hudson Bay question, the Americans from St. Paul were steaming down to Fort Garry. It is not the first time that we have received a lesson in enterprise from our republican neighbours; to be our leaders on our own soil, though creditable to them, is surely not in this case particularly honourable to us.

That Red River country, let me observe, is no inhospitable desert, repugnant to the increase of the human race. Modern science has exploded the ancient error, that climate is determined by the latitude. The best authority on the climatology of our continent, Mr. Lorin Blodgett, has pointed out the existence of a vast wedge-shaped tract, extending from the 47th deg. to the 60th deg. of northern latitude, 10 degrees of longitude at the base, containing 500,000 square miles of habitable land, subject to few and inconsiderable variations of climate. This author gives a summer of 95 days to Toronto, and of 90 days to Cumberland House in 54 deg. north. Mr. Simon Dawson, from personal observation, compares the climate of Fort Garry to that of Kingston. Prof. Hind places its annual mean temperature at 3 deg. lower than that of Toronto. Herds of buffalo winter in the woodland as far north as the 60th parallel; Indian corn grows on both banks of the Saskatchewan; wheat sown in the valley of the Red River early in May is gathered in by the end of August. The altitude and aspect of the country nourish in it a temperature which one would not expect to find so far northward. Blodgett asserts that spring opens almost simultaneously along the vast plains from St. Paul to the Mackenzie River; and assuredly where cattle can winter out, where the rivers are generally free of ice by the first week of May, where wheat can be grown "twenty years in succession without exhausting the soil"—there must be something woefully wrong in the system of rule, when, after fifty years of settlement, we find a

Canadian paper of good standing has the following, under date of the 27th March last:—

"The evidence of the existence of gold on the

total population of less than 10,000 souls! The lake and river system of that region are almost as wonderful as our own. Lake Winnipeg has an area equal to that of Erie, and Lake Manitobah nearly half that of Winnipeg. In the valleys of the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine, Professor Hind estimates that there are above 11,000,000 acres of "arable land of the first quality." Of this region about one-half is prairie to one-half woodland; it is the only extensive prairie country open to us east of the Rocky Mountains, and if justice was even now done it, it would become the Illinois or Iowa of our future British-American nationality.

And this country is not only valuable in itself, but valuable for that to which it leads. The distance from a given point on our side of Lake Superior to navigable water on Fraser's River, in British Columbia, does not exceed 2000 miles—about twice the distance between Boston and Chicago. It has been shown by every explorer how, with some inconsiderable aids from art, a continuous steam-boat navigation might be obtained from Lake Winnipeg to the base of the Rocky Mountains. By these aids, and corresponding improvements on the other side of the mountains, Toronto might be brought within ten or twelve days of British Columbia. But there is a more important consideration connected with the territory; for we know that through its prairies is to be found the shortest and best *railroad* route to the Pacific. Every one can understand that the American route from Western Europe to Asia which lies farthest to the north, must be the most direct. Any one glancing at a globe will see where the 46th degree parallel leads the eye from the heart of Germany, through the British Channel, across to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and from our gulf westward to the Saskatchewan, to Vancouver's Island—the Cuba of the North Pacific—and from Vancouver to the rich and populous archipelago of Japan. This course was demonstrated by Captain

Saskatchewan is sufficient to satisfy the minds of the people of Red River, and they propose to fit out an expedition and engage in the work of practical exploration. Small quantities of gold have been found, and miners are said to be already on the spot prepared to commence operations in the spring. From British Columbia last year we were informed that gold had been found on the Peace River, which takes its rise in the Rocky Mountains and has its course to the eastward of that range. The extreme probability that gold, which has been found on both sides of the mountains throughout their entire ex-

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Synge to be 2000 miles shorter between London and Hong Kong than any other in existence; it has but one formidable engineering difficulty to be overcome—an elevation of 6000 feet above the sea-level in crossing the Rocky Mountains into Columbia. Such at least is the carefully-guarded statement of Mr. Stevens, the late American Governor of Washington territory; and such is said to be the result arrived at by Captain Palliser's more recent explorations. By a short tunnel at the favourable pass, the elevation may be reduced to 5000 feet, "whose gradients," it has been calculated, "need not exceed sixty feet per mile, from the head of Lake Superior to Puget Sound." An elevation of 5000 feet is not an insuperable obstacle—as has been shown at Mount Cenis and the Alleghanies. (On the Philadelphia and Pittsburg road at Altona the gradient of 96 feet to the mile has been found practicable.) The name—"Rocky Mountains"—is more formidable to the ear than to the engineer; as the latitude has misled us with regard to climate, so the latitude has been overrated with regard to cost; but the science of this age once entering upon any experiment, it will neither be deterred by regions represented as uninhabitable, nor by mountains reputed to be impassable.—T. D. M'Gee, quoted in the *Canadian News* of the 31st Oct., 1861.

tent within the United States territory, will also be found on both sides in the British possessions, makes us receive the evidence of its existence on the Saskatchewan and Peace Rivers with confidence. We are happy to find that the people of Red River are about to test the matter in a practical way by sending out some of their most intelligent and reliable men. If their expedition is successful in finding gold, they will secure the introduction of a stream of emigration through their territory which cannot but prove immediately advantageous to their interests. In many respects, a gold field upon the Saskatchewan will be more attractive than any other yet discovered upon this continent, or, indeed, in any part of the world. That of Nova Scotia is indeed much nearer civilization, but it is of limited extent, and is not yet proved to be possessed of the extraordinary riches of the Rocky Mountain diggings. The Pike's Peak gold fields are geographically as near civilization as those of the Saskatchewan, but the country surrounding them is of the most sterile character, almost unfit for the residence of man, and the journey from the east is made over barren plains not fit for man's habitation. The Saskatchewan country, on the contrary, is a magnificent prairie with a fertile soil, a climate not more severe than that of Upper Canada, with fine navigable streams, and considerable supplies of lignite. California and British Columbia are accessible, it is true, by sea, but the voyage is a long and expensive one. The number of persons who will resort thither from Europe and the Atlantic coast of America will necessarily be comparatively small. The Saskatchewan, on the contrary, can be reached by the expenditure of a small sum of money, and, when the routes are properly opened, without fatigue or expense. Already a steam-boat and stage route has been opened from St. Paul's to Red River, and a still better one will, we trust, be established from Fort William ere long. With a steam-boat on Lake Winnipeg and another upon the Saskatchewan River, the journey from Canada and the United States to the Saskatchewan gold fields would cost but a few dollars in money, and a few days in time. The territory is rendered still more attractive by the fact that it lies on the direct route to the gold fields of the Pacific. The adventurer would understand that if he failed on the east side of the mountains, he would find on the west the opportunities he asked for."

Again:

"The last Red River mail confirms the rumours of 1861 in respect to the discovery of gold on the Saskatchewan. The 'colour' has been found at Carlton House, near the forks of the river—a locality about half-way from Selkirk to the mountains. The *Nor'-Wester*, the newspaper at Fort Garry, is filled with articles exhibiting the rising excitement among the mercurial people of the settlement. I anticipate that the *voyageurs* of the north-west, with oxen, horses, and carts, will be unavailable to the Hudson's Bay Company next summer. A population of 4000 from Selkirk alone will be speedily transferred to the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, thoroughly exploring, under the guidance of Australian and Californian miners, the resources of the Saskatchewan. Their places will be filled tenfold by emigrants from England and Canada, especially if a Colonial Government is established at the present session of Parliament over Central British America. In any event, I cannot see how the Hudson Bay Company can rely on their present system of transportation during the summer of 1862. A Mackinaw boat, holding five tons, requires five men — usually half-breed *voyageurs*. These cannot be obtained, if there is a stampede to the diggings, among that roving and unreliable class.

"There are now two steamers on the Red River of the north. With our present news, there will be a necessity in July for a propeller through Lake Winnipeg and a river steamer on the Saskatchewan. These furnished, a water communication from Georgetown, in Minnesota, would transport an emigrant to the new *Eldorado* in the Rocky Mountains, from which the Frazer flows to the Pacific, the Peace River to the Arctic Ocean, and the Saskatchewan to the Hudson Bay."

"The conception of an Inter-Oceanic Railway" (writes an able correspondent of the *Times*), "commencing at Halifax, and, after passing, in its entire length of 3200 miles, through British territory, terminating at the new Liverpool, which, we may confidently hope, will, in a few years, rise up on the southern shore of Vancouver Island, is one the magnitude and importance of which cannot be overestimated. As compared with the route to British Columbia *viâ* Panama, the Inter-Oceanic line would effect a saving of twenty-two days, while the position of Vancouver Island, as contrasted with Panama, in relation to China and Australia, is also very significant.

Panama to Canton, about	10,000 miles
Vancouver Island to Canton	9,000
Panama to Sydney	8,200
Vancouver Island to Sydney	7,200

"This proximity to Australia," continues the writer," is especially worthy of note at a time when the transmission of the mails across the Pacific is again being prominently advocated. It will be apparent from the aforegiven distances, that by transmitting the Australian mails from England to the Pacific across British North America *viâ* Vancouver Island, instead of *viâ* Panama, a saving of five days is effected between England and the Pacific, and of 1000 miles, or say five days more, in the passage across that ocean—ten days saved in all.

"The advantages to Great Britain which would accrue consequent upon the entire service being performed through British territory are beyond all calculation. The construction of the railway would not merely open up to civilization a large territory in British North America hitherto almost unexplored, but it would open up to the cultivators of the soil in that territory and in Canada a means of transit to all the markets of the Pacific, and an open passage to the China seas and to our possessions in the East Indies. In every aspect, whether viewed politically, socially, or commercially, the establishment of the proposed railway would give a progressive impulse to the affairs of the world, which, in its results, would eclipse anything which has been witnessed even amid the extraordinary development of the present century. That the railway will infallibly be made is as certain as that now is the time to undertake it. One does not require to be a prophet to predict that when the resources of British Columbia are fully opened up, and a communication established between the Atlantic and the Pacific, there will be enough traffic for a dozen steamers as large as the Great Eastern on both oceans. The British empire has now the opportunity of securing that position which it has hitherto occupied without dispute as the greatest commercial nation in the world."

In reference to the delays which the scheme has experienced in its progress towards completion, the *Canadian News* of the 20th March, 1862, observes:—

"The papers received by the last mail from British North America state that the return of the Hon. Mr. Van Koughnet to Canada without the definite reply of the Imperial Government to the proposals of the several provinces in regard to the Inter-colonial Railway, has been made the occasion by several of the journals in each of the provinces to charge their recently returned delegates with failure in their mission. Never was a charge so utterly groundless. We are in a position to state in the most positive terms that, so far from this Government having given a refusal, they are now engaged in discussing the whole merits of the question.

"The delay has arisen because it was suggested that it would be well in the first place to satisfy the Lords of the Treasury in regard to the feeling of this country with reference to the proposed railway. Memorials have accordingly been sent in from Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Chester, Gloucester, Sheffield, Leith, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast, &c., all couched in the strongest possible language as to the absolute necessity, in an Imperial point of view, of the Halifax and Quebec Railway. These documents are now receiving at the hands of the Executive that consideration to which they are so well entitled; and we understand that, with the view to the discussion of the whole question in Parliament, the production of these papers will be moved for in the House. In the meantime, our provincial contemporaries would do well to await the results of the forthcoming action of the Imperial Legislature, before attributing failure to the recent mission with which the Hon. Messrs. Van Koughnet, Howe, and Tilley were charged, and especially as their recent statements are very likely to prove them false prophets."

Another new undertaking, projected in connexion with the same colony,* is the "British Columbia Overland Transit Company (limited)." The capital is to be 500,000*l.*, with power to increase to 1,000,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. The promoters have organized an overland route from Canada, passing direct through British territory. Surveyors have traced a direct road, which, with a perfect organization of land-transport, is stated to be at once available. The company intends to form a land-transport train adapted both for passengers and goods, a large immigrant traffic being anticipated. Enterprise in this direction having been encouraged by the legislatures both of Canada and British Columbia, applications have been made direct to them for local charters, with a view to secure to the company exclusive privileges. The hope is held out of accomplishing the distance between Europe

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* It is proper to draw attention to the accompanying letter on the subject of this enterprise, which was inserted in the *Daily News* of April 10, 1862:—

"THE WEST-END JOINT-STOCK BANK (LIMITED), AND THE BRITISH COLUMBIA OVERLAND TRANSIT COMPANY (LIMITED).

"*To the Editor of the Daily News.*

"SIR,—Admitted, on the one hand, that gentlemen of position and property have a right to exert their influence and invest their money in as many joint-stock companies as they please, I think it will be conceded, on the other hand, that the public should know how or where any particular circle of such capitalists may be found in continuous co-operation in different enterprises.

"I have before me copies of the prospectuses of the two companies whose titles introduce this letter. The board of the first-mentioned consists of eleven directors, of the second, fifteen; and I observe that the former contributes ten members to the directory of the latter. The chairman, the solicitors, and the auditor stand alike for both companies.

"Would it not be more discreet, on the part of those gentlemen, if they were to distribute good dividends on No. 1, before they immerse themselves in No. 2?—I am, &c.,

"CAUTIOUS."

and British Columbia in about twenty-five days. Attached to the undertaking is a scheme for carrying on banking business in British Columbia. It is more particularly proposed to deal in bullion and gold dust, upon the plan pursued by the transit companies in British Columbia.

A correspondent of the *Canadian News*, under date of the 23rd February, 1862, says:—

"The movement towards the gold fields of British Columbia which is almost depopulating some parts of California, and is raging with some intensity in the States, has reached some parts of Canada too, and several hundred adventurous spirits are going to follow the few who have already left in search of fortunes on the Pacific coast. The papers of the Atlantic provinces are rather discountenancing this—they fear the exodus of even a few, and they are pointing to the rich new gold fields of Novia Scotia as a preferable quarter for people to try their luck. I hardly know which course to take. I hope a large number of immigrants will go to both. What a future for this northern portion of the continent do not these new gold discoveries open up! The Nova Scotia coal mines are the best places on the Atlantic coast of America for procuring coal—nay, I think the only place, and the supplies there are inexhaustible. Vancouver Island is the only spot where coal is to be found on the Pacific. Thus facilities for steam-boat and railway travel are provided at either end of the great trans-continental route. The Harbour of Halifax on the one side and Victoria on the other are the best in all America

—both always free from ice, well protected, and capacious. The valley of the St. Lawrence extends a thousand miles and more between these extreme points. The valley of the Saskatchewan runs a thousand miles further—both of these being in British territory, in the direction of travel between the oceans, and so level as to be almost natural beds for railroads. Ere many years, I see that railway trains must run on British ground from one side of this new world to the other, carrying not only the gold of California and Columbia towards Great Britain, but also the teas and silks of China and Japan and the rich productions of our Indian empire, returning with finer manufactures of English anvils and looms for the supply of the populations of two continents. It is a thousand pities the British people will not open their eyes to the advantages of the International Railroad in bringing this future soon about; it alone is needed to half accomplish it, and to link Halifax with Sarnia, Goderich, and Collingwood on Lake Huron and its great Georgian Bay. It is much to be regretted, too, that the grand ideas of Mr. W. M. Dawson, the projector of the North-West Transportation Company (chartered, but not yet organised), have not yet been carried out. His plans, which excited much attention a few years ago, comprised, you will remember, the establishment of a steam line between Collingwood and Fort William (Lake Superior), and the placing of half-a-dozen small river steamers on the chain of rivers and lakes which run from that to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, with only a few easily surmounted *portages*. It would not have taken more than $100,000 to start this enterprise, and had it been in operation now, it would have repaid its proprietors tenfold in a few seasons, for it would have been patronised by all who are going to the Cariboo or to Peele River. Perhaps Mr. Dawson's next endeavour will be more successful, and the establishment in London of the British American Association, of which we have heard with the deepest interest, will enable such plans as his the better to be laid before the British public."

On the 13th of September, 1858, a letter appeared in the *Times* from a writer desirous of showing the practicability of speedily establishing, and at a very moderate cost, a line of electric telegraph from Canada to the western sea-board, which shall prove the forerunner of the Great Inter-Oceanic Railway, and the means, in part, of opening up the vast and yet unoccupied territory east of the Rocky Mountains.

The route may shortly be described as follows:—

	Miles.
Fort William to Red River—say	500
Red River to Fairford (or Lake Winnipeg)—say	130
Fairford to Cumberland station—say . . .	170
Cumberland to Nepowewin	200
Nepowewin by the N. Saskatchewan or Battle River to the Punchbowl Pass, on the Rocky Mountains	600—1100
	1600

"The weight and cost of the staves for the whole line would be, approximately:—

FORT WILLIAM TO ASSINIBOIA.

Weight, 272 tons.

Cost of materials and of conveyance from England by the route of Lake Superior to Fort William	£9,500
Inland conveyance	1,500

ASSINIBOIA TO ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

Weight, 298 tons.

Cost of materials and of conveyance from England by way of Hudson's Bay to Fort York . .	£11,000
Inland conveyance	3,000

"The only remaining item of cost to be considered is that of labour. The amount of skilled labour to be performed in the erection of a line of telegraph is so limited that a trained workman would complete his portion of the work at the rate of from five to ten miles of line per week. The labour, for the execution of which no previous training is required, is simply that of cutting wood suitable for telegraph posts along the route, and setting these posts in the ground at intervals of fifty or sixty yards. Possibly for some hundreds of miles of the whole distance no pole-setting whatever would be required, the living trees themselves (of course with proper insulators) affording every convenience for the due support and protection of the electric wire. A sum of *5l.* per mile would, no doubt, be a liberal allowance to cover this charge.

"The figures would therefore stand thus :—

Materials and shipment	£20,500
Inland conveyance	4,500
Labour	8,000
	£33,000

He adds : "Between Fort William and the Canadian capital such an extension as might hereafter seem desirable could readily be established, either by the route of Lake Superior or of the River Ottawa, but the unbroken Lake communication which now exists would supply in a measure the hiatus, until the completion of the remaining section should bind together with a link of iron the mother country and her colonies in the Pacific."

Gold had been discovered in Queen Charlotte's Islands in 1852, but only in small quantities; and it has been long well understood that this precious metal existed not only on Frazer River, but throughout the Central Cascade Range in this direction. As matter of actual discovery, Captain McClelland, in 1853, while surveying the military road from Fort Walla Walla, on the Columbia River, to Fort Steilacoom, on Puget Sound, through the Nachess Pass, found gold in considerable quantities, his men making two dollars a day, sometimes, with a pan. The discovery, whenever first made, or wherever, was not reported to the Home Government until 1856, when Mr. Douglas, Governor of the new colony, addressed a despatch to the Colonial Secretary, in which he stated that a discovery of much importance had been made known to him by Mr. Angus M'Donald, clerk in charge of Fort Colvile.

Mr. M'Donald reported that gold had been found in considerable quantities within the British territory on the Upper Columbia, and that he was moreover of opinion that valuable deposits of gold would be found in many other parts of that country.

The communication was not very enthusiastically received, and in December, 1857, the Governor wrote to the Colonial Government a letter, in which he says:—

"The reputed wealth of the Couteau Mines is causing much excitement among the population of the United States territories of Washington and Oregon, and I have no doubt that a great number of people from those territories will be attracted thither with the return of the fine weather in spring.

"When mining becomes a remunerative employment, and there is a proof of the extent and productiveness of the gold deposits, I would propose that the licence fee be gradually increased, in such a manner, however, as not to be higher than the persons engaged in mining can readily pay."

On the 6th April, 1858, Douglas informed the Colonial Secretary that the search for gold and prospecting of the country had, up to the last dates from the interior, been carried on by the native Indian population, who were extremely jealous of the whites, and strongly opposed to their digging the soil for gold.

The shipments of gold from Victoria to San Francisco by the agencies, amounted in 1858 to $837,765, in 1859 to $1,211,309; in 1860 to $1,303,332, and in 1861 to $1,636,870.

In 1860 the population, revenue, and expenditure of British Columbia and Vancouver Island were as follow:—

POPULATION.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	
British Columbia			5,000,	official estimate, 1860.
Vancouver Island			5,000,	do. do.

REVENUE.

British Columbia	£53,286
Vancouver Island	14,749

EXPENDITURE.

British Columbia	£47,175
Vancouver Island	14,171

The *Canadian News* of the 8th May, 1861, publishes the subjoined figures:—

"The receipts at the Custom-house (of Victoria) for the week ending March 2, 1861, were—Duties, 710*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*; harbour dues, 7*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*; head money, 16*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*; tonnage dues, 60*l.* 19*s.*; warehouse fees, 1*l.* 4*s.*; total revenue, 796*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The customs receipts for January and February, 1860, were 3890*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; for the same months in 1861, 4069*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; increase in favour of 1861, 178*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* A slight increase has also taken place in the number of persons who paid head money. In 1860, during January and February, there were 290; and in 1861, during the same period, 316. Gain in 1861, 26."

The largest hotel in Victoria is in Langley-street, and is a commodious and well-finished structure. It was erected for Mr. Mitchell, the owner of the ground, and was leased, in 1861, for a term of years, to Mr. Bull, the proprietor of the late British-American Hotel on Yates-street. It is called, we believe, the Columbia House, or the Columbia Hotel.

A quite recent letter from Victoria, Columbia, gives a flourishing account of the mineral wealth of Vancouver Island :—

"I have told you before of the almost fabulous richness of the mines of British Columbia ; recent accounts place this beyond a doubt. Many men are making $100 per day, and not a few have picked up 100 ounces in the same space of time. Numbers who left Victoria penniless are now worth from $1000 to $10,000, the result of one summer's labour. Those who had not luck enough to get good claims of their own, obtained plenty of employment at from $10 to $20 per day. Want is unknown, provisions are plentiful, and hardships are among the things of the past. According to all accounts, the gold must have been taken out by spadefuls. Think of $100 to the pan—not a fancy, but a reality. Miners think that richer diggings are yet to be found, and that the true seat of the gold is not yet discovered. All the metal is coarse and in small nuggets—say from ten to twenty dollar pieces. The largest lump yet found weighs 7 lb. ; and this, strange to say, was found on Thompson's River—old and neglected ground. Miners are now coming down in large numbers, each with his little sack of gold ; but the majority of those with 'piles' proceed to San Francisco—a loss at present unavoidable from the want of mint and the scarcity of the circulating medium. The *Otter*, within the last fortnight, has brought down not less than $500,000, and there is plenty more to come. Wells, Fargo, and Co. alone will have shipped this year not less than a million and a half dollars."

Mr. A. G. Dallas, to whom the letter was addressed, says:—

"From my own personal knowledge of the country, I believe that British Columbia will surpass both Australia and California in the richness of its gold fields. At present the labourers are few, and the gold does not figure in the exports from Victoria, but goes to swell those of California. Provisions are as plentiful as gold, and cheaper than in any other country I know. The finest potatoes I ever saw were selling last winter in Victoria at 20 cents or 10*d.* per 100 lb. Flour and other necessaries were equally cheap and abundant. Groceries also were as cheap as in England, there being no duties. The only expensive articles are manufactured goods, the produce of labour. For the possessor of the latter, in the shape of a stout heart and strong arms, both male and female, there is no better country in the world, with its fine climate and every other good gift of Providence, including seas and rivers abounding with fish, forests, rich farming lands at 4*s.* 2*d.* per acre, corn fields, and minerals. In the event of war, these fine colonies, at all times difficult of access to the poor man, can only be reached or even communicated with either by the circuitous route round Cape Horn or *viâ* China. To American steamers from Panama to Victoria we are at present indebted for the transmission of letters or passengers. What is wanted is a line of English steamers from Panama to Victoria. This cannot, in the first instance, be accomplished without the aid of the mother-country

This aid, granted but for a short period, would, I am satisfied, so add to the population and so develope the resources of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, that in a few years they would be able to carry on for themselves what they now solicit the mother-country to establish."

The Victoria *Colonist*, in speculating upon the next season's emigration, says :—

"Cariboo—fabulously rich in gold—will be the centre of attraction. Between that and Victoria will be the main line of trade, travel, and industry. The Cariboo country proper contains no less than an area of 6400 square miles. It is ample enough to employ 50,000 miners of itself. But it is not at all probable—attractive as it is—that our other gold fields will be overlooked, if enjoying exclusively the immigration. Stickeen River, where good wages can be made—where provisions can be boated in—where mining is nearly as rich as at Cariboo—Stickeen will draw off its adventurers; that is certain. Then there is Peace River, between Stickeen and Cariboo. It is rich; the gold fields extensive, and more accessible than Cariboo. Peace River will take its quota of miners. Then there is North River—a branch of the Thompson—between Lake Kamloops and Cariboo. It offers another field for miners. It is nearer and more accessible, and probably equally as rich as Cariboo. Its tributaries and bars will hardly escape the delving miner.

"Still farther east is Columbia River—the northern branch of that extensive artery. By crossing over from North River or the head of Shuswap Lake, the head waters of the British portion of Columbia River is struck. Its bars are auriferous; pay $25 a day; and on the rich creeks which are tributary, are diggings as rich as Cariboo. Explorers ascended it last year. Gold miners will go there too. Rock Creek and Similkameen will also attract more or less; whilst numerous other localities, either known or unknown, will share out the immigration.

"We may thus see the wide field for immigration which our country offers—a gold field extending from the 49th to the 57th degree of north latitude; and from 116° west longitude to 132°—eight degrees of latitude by sixteen degrees of longitude. Whichever route miners take—to whatever gold fields the miners go—it will require a great deal of labour to supply them. Towards Cariboo, in all probability, the majority of the rush will go. No question then exists but that the attention of Government should be early turned in that direction. But along the same road, on Thompson and Nicolas Rivers, at least five thousand farmers may settle down this year—insured unequalled prices for their crops. Hay, cereals, vegetables, are sure to find a good market."

Another local paper, under date of the 14th January, 1862, gives us the following news from Cariboo:—

"Mr. Levi, of Levi and Boas, New Westminster, has furnished some additional and interesting items of intelligence from Cariboo. There are about 75,000 pounds of flour at the Forks of Quesnelle, and 125,000 pounds of other goods. At Beaver Lake there are 25,000 pounds of every description of merchandise, most of which will be taken to the Forks, before the spring immigration arrives, on the backs of Indians. The only article of which there was a scarcity up to December 1st, was candles, which were selling at $2 50 a pound! Think of paying $50 for a 20-pound box of greasy illuminators! The Indians, for packing 100 pounds from the Forks of Quesnelle to Antler Creek, receive $40 a trip, which generally, owing to the deep snow, consumes the best part of a week. From Beaver Lake to the Forks, $10 are paid for each 100 pounds packed. Four or five white men were making hand-sleds at the latter place, on which they proposed freighting goods to Antler; and McCarty (a well-known packer) was preparing dog-sleds at Fort Alexandria to run between the Fords and Antler, with freight at 30 cents per pound. Several parties were engaged in sawing lumber on the banks of Quesnelle, and they were selling it at $125 per 1000 feet; the demand was very light. Flour at the Forks was worth $72 dollars per barrel; beans, 45 cents per pound; bacon, 68 cents; best india-rubber boots, $16; axes, $6; long-handled shovels, $5; picks, $6. Just before our informant started to come down, the discovery of a rich silver mine, between Beaver Lake and Alexandria, was announced.

The weather was intensely cold, and the snow three feet deep."

Under date of July 16, 1861, the Governor writes to the Colonial Secretary :—

"The latest accounts from Cariboo confirm the former reports of its vast auriferous wealth. About 1500 men are supposed to be congregated in those mines, and the number is continually augmented by the arrival of fresh bodies of miners. It will be a work of difficulty to keep them supplied with food, a service which now gives employment to about 1200 transport horses and mules ; and I am in hopes that the large profits made in that business will lead to its extension.

"To facilitate the transport to those mines I authorized a grant of 400*l.* to improve the river trail from Cayoosh to Williams' Lake ; and 400*l.* to open a trail from Quesnelle to Cariboo Lake, the charge, in both cases, to be defrayed out of the district revenues.

"The remoteness of the Cariboo mines, and the large assemblage of people there, have rendered it necessary to establish a gold escort for the conveyance of treasure from Quesnelle to New Westminster, and more especially with the view of strengthening the hands of the magistrates in those distant localities by the periodical exhibition of a small military force. This will put the colony to expense, but I conceive it is an indispensable precaution that may prevent much future evil."

CHAPTER VI.

Extracts from Recent Official Despatches—Further Extracts from the Local and Canadian Press and from Correspondence—Extracts from the *Times* Letter of March 25, 1862—Remarks on the Letter—The Bishop of Columbia's *Journal.*

WE think that the following letter is of sufficient interest to be given at length :—

"Copy of Despatch from Governor DOUGLAS, C.B., to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G.

"Victoria, Vancouver Island, *September* 16, 1861.

"(Received *November* 2, 1861.)

"MY LORD DUKE,

"I HAVE much satisfaction in reporting to your Grace that the Colony of British Columbia continues in a tranquil and progressive state.

"The Gold Commissioners, in their last monthly reports, represent the continued exodus of the mining population from their respective districts towards the 'Cariboo' country; in speaking of which I have adopted the popular and more convenient orthography of the word, though properly it should be written 'Cariboeuf,' or rein-deer, the country having been so named from its being a favourite haunt of that species of the deer kind.

"The most extraordinary accounts of the wealth of that gold field are received by every succeeding steamer from British Columbia; and those accounts are confirmed by letters from the merchants and traders of the district, and by fortunate adventurers who have realized, by a few weeks' labour, their thousands of dollars. It would in fact appear that Cariboo is at least equal, in point of auriferous wealth, to the best parts of California; and I believe the gold deposits of British Columbia will be found to be distributed over far more extensive space.

"Some idea may be formed of the large sums realized, from the fact that 195 ounces of gold were taken in one day out of a single mining claim; while ordinary claims yield as much as forty or fifty dollars a-day to the man: but perhaps the most telling circumstance is the high price of labour, which has attained to the extraordinary sum of ten dollars a-day; and any number of men may find employment at that rate of pay.

"The Cariboo gold district was discovered by a fine athletic young man of the name of McDonnell, a native of the island of Cape Breton, of mixed French and Scotch descent, combining in his personal appearance and character the courage, activity, and remarkable powers of endurance of both races. His health has suffered from three years' constant exposure and privation, which induced him to repair, with his well-earned wealth, to this colony for medical assistance.

"His verbal report to me is interesting, and conveys the idea of an almost exhaustless gold field, extending through the quartz and slate formations, in a northerly direction from Cariboo Lake.

"The following well-attested instances of successful mining at Cariboo may prove interesting, and will probably convey to Her Majesty's Government a more precise idea of the value and real character of this gold field than any mere generalizations, and with that object in view, I will lay the details, as received from the persons themselves, before your Grace.

"John McArthur and Thomas Phillips arrived here from Cariboo on the 17th of August last, with nine thousand ($9000) dollars' worth of gold dust in their possession, being the fruits of three months' residence at the mines. They arrived there on the 1st day of May, and left again on the 1st day of August, having previously sold their mining claim at a high price to other persons. Their last earnings for one day amounted to five hundred and twenty-five dollars ($525); and no single day's work yielded less than twenty-five dollars ($25). Both those persons have been mining in California, and are acquainted with its resources, yet they give it as their opinion that Cariboo, as a 'generally paying' country, surpasses the best days of California.

"Mr. Patterson and brother arrived at New Westminster by the steamer of the 14th instant, with ten thousand dollars' worth of gold dust, the produce of five weeks' work at Cariboo. I personally inspected their treasure, of which they are justly proud, being the well-earned reward of their skill and enterprise. Mr. Patterson's mining claim was on the Lowhee, a tributary of Swift River, and about sixteen miles distant from Antler Creek. The ground was composed of gravel and many quartz boulders, and the depth to the bed-rock was from four to six feet, beyond which he did not attempt to penetrate, though the richest deposit of gold was immediately over the bed-rock. The largest day's return from the claim was seventy-three ounces of gold, worth about twelve hundred dollars ($1200); on another occasion he received seventy ounces at the close of a day's work. The gold is in rough jagged pieces, the largest found by Mr. Patterson was over six ounces; but on the next claim to his, a piece of ten ounces was picked up by the lucky proprietor. Mr. Patterson sold his mining claim before his departure from Cariboo, and is now returning to his native country, the United States, with the wealth he has so rapidly acquired in British Columbia, this being one of the evils to which the colony is exposed through the want of a fixed population.

"I will not multiply these details, having said enough to show your Grace the opinion entertained by the public of the newly-discovered gold fields, and of the probable influx of population from California and other countries which may be attracted by those discoveries. I need not assure your Grace that every precaution will, in that event, be taken to maintain the peace, order, and good government of the country, and to increase its permanent population; but it is impossible to repress a feeling of profound regret that so few of Her Majesty's British subjects have yet participated in the rich harvests reaped in British Columbia, though there is certainly no country in the world that offers greater inducements to the labouring classes, or for the employment of capital. The settler enjoys the peculiar advantage in British Columbia of an unfettered choice of the public domain; and may, without expense or official delay, select any part of the colony he pleases, as his future home; the ultimate price of land being in no case over four shillings and twopence an acre, payable by instalments, spread over several years. In fact, the system of no country can offer greater inducements to the settler and miner than the land regulations and mining laws of British Columbia.

"The miners at Cariboo have, I am glad to inform your Grace, suffered no privation whatever from the want of food. Besides the large importations of bread-stuffs and salt meat packed in from Lillooet and Lytton, large droves of cattle have been sent to Antler Creek, where the native grasses are nutritious and abundant; and fresh beef is now selling by retail at 1s. 8*d.* a pound. A mining town of some note has sprung into existence at Antler's Creek, and supplies of all kinds can be readily purchased.

"The traveller who is prepared to encounter famine in its gauntest forms on his arrival at Cariboo, is not a little astonished to find himself in the midst of luxury, sitting down every morning to fresh milk and eggs for breakfast, and to as good a dinner as can be seen in Victoria.

"The great commercial thoroughfares, leading into the interior of the country, from Hope, Yale, and Douglas, are in rapid progress, and now exercise a most beneficial effect on the internal commerce of the colony. I have many other productive public works, indispensable for the development of the colony, in view, but I cannot undertake their execution until I am made acquainted with your Grace's decision about the proposed loan of money for British Columbia.

"I have, &c.

"(Signed) James Douglas.

"His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.
&c. &c. &c."

Again, under date of October 24, 1861, the Governor says:—

"Accounts from Cariboo are more than ever satisfactory; and the numbers of returning miners with their rapidly acquired stores of gold, and the extraordinary fact, unusual, I believe, in gold countries, that they have been all eminently successful, offer the strongest confirmation of the almost fabulous wealth of that gold-field. I have not, indeed, up to the present time, met with a single unfortunate miner from that quarter. Of those whom I had occasion to interrogate during my recent visit to British Columbia, I ascertained that none who held mining claims had less than 2000, and that others had cleared as much as $10,000 during their summer's sojourn at the mines. It may therefore be fairly assumed that their individual earnings range at some point between those figures. I should, however, apprise your Grace that the large strikes of the season, such as Jourdan and Abbott claim on Lowhee Creek, and Ned Campbell's claim on Lightning Creek, the latter said to have produced 900 ounces of gold in one day, are not included in this category, as I have had no opportunity of seeing the owners of these claims, who are still in the upper country; but I will inquire into and report upon these special cases hereafter."

Our readers will probably not object to have a few extracts from Mr. Douglas's travelling note-book for 1861 :—

"Laurent Bijou, a native of France, left Cariboo on the 1st day of August. He resided about one month at the mines, and has acquired $4500 worth of gold dust ;—says he has not been so fortunate as many others, who are making as much as $1000 a day. He has mined in California, but never saw a gold field so rich as Cariboo."

"Joseph Paterson and brother, natives of Maine, United States of America, have been mining at Keithley's Creek, and left it about the 10th of September. They have cleared the sum of $6000 between them, or $3000 each, in gold dust, which they carry about with them on their persons. They report that as a general thing the miners are making from two to three ounces a day. They are well acquainted with Jourdan and Abbott's claim, and have often seen them weighing out, at the close of their day's work; the yield on one occasion was within a few grains of 195 ounces, the number of working hands being at the time four in all. That was their largest day's return; but 80, 90, and 100 ounces a day were ordinary returns."

"Richard Willoughby, a native of England, discovered a mining claim on Lowhee Creek, and began to work it on the 27th of July last; he continued mining with from four to seven hired men till the 8th of September, when he sold the claim to another person, and returned safely to Yale, where he now resides, with the sum of 12,000 dollars in gold dust. His largest day's return was 84 ounces, and the entire amount of gold taken, during his tenure, from the claim, amounted to 3037 ounces, valued at 48,600 dollars, and his own share to the sum of 12,000 dollars. His last week's work netted 2032 dollars, and for two weeks previously he cleared 1000 dollars a week for each working hand on the claim; and what is extraordinary is the fact that all this wealth was found immediately at or within four feet of the surface, the extreme of Mr. Willoughby's sinkings. At that depth he encountered the bed rock, composed of soft blue slate, yielding readily to the pick. He also mentions the discovery of a highly auriferous quartz reef; and he gave me a specimen of galena, containing, as per assay, 67 per cent. of lead, and 37 ounces of silver to the ton. He also mentioned several rich veins of silver ore which he saw at Cariboo; but the inferior metals attract scarcely any attention in countries where gold is easily acquired."

"Mr. Hodge, an American settled near Yale, held a mining claim on Lowhee Creek for about six weeks, and lately returned to Yale with a sum exceeding $2100. His reports corroborate and confirm in all respects the statements of Richard Willoughby."

"Thomas Brown, an American citizen, claims the honour of having discovered and taken up the first mining claim on Williams' Creek, just one claim below the Jourdan and Abbott claim. Mr. Brown has been fortunate, and has a heavy pouch of gold, but I did not ascertain its money value. He says that 'Ned Campbell,' a friend of his, with a company of ten other miners, selected and recorded a claim on a newly discovered stream, called Lightning Creek, a tributary of Swift River, which yielded about two ounces of gold to the panful of earth; and that a report had reached Quesnelle previous to his departure, that the company, almost as soon as they began to work, had realized 1100 ounces in one day; and he places the greatest confidence in that report. Mr. Brown's statements on all other points respecting Cariboo corroborate the statements of Mr. Willoughby."

We do not know that we can render a better service to our readers, who desire practical and trustworthy information, than by giving a few more extracts from the local press. In reference to the vital question of prices, the Victoria (V. I.) *Colonist* of the 21st January last, says:—

"Little business worth anything has been transacted here for three weeks past. Goods of every description are held at very high figures, but the sales made are extremely light. The New Westminster market is reported bare of flour, potatoes, and beef. Here there is an abundant supply of flour to meet the present very limited demand, at $8 50 and $9 for extra brands, and $7 50 to $8 for superfine. Three thousand barrels of California mills are on the way to this market. New beans are in good supply at 6 and 7 cents per pound. Potatoes meet with a steady sale at 1½ cents by wholesale, and 2½ and 3 cents retail. Sugar of every grade is high, and tea and coffee are away up in the clouds, on account of the War Tariff on both articles. A heavy sale of Sandwich Island sugar took place yesterday on private terms. Adamantine candles are wholesaled at 30 cents per pound, and the Hudson Bay Company hold Oregon bacon at 17 and 18 cents. There is stored in town a small quantity of British Columbia freight awaiting transit, and we learn that the schooner *Explorer* will start for Frazer River to-day with freight and passengers."

Annexed is a "List of Goods shipped from San

Francisco to Victoria (V. I.) and British Columbia in 1859."

Absinthe, cs.	72
Agricultural implements, pcs.	32
Alcohol, bbls.	136
do. cs.	172
Anchors, no.	56
Bacon, hhds.	225
do. cs.	447
do, pkgs.	554
Barley, bags	16,937
Beans, bags	11,065
Beef, bbls.	99
do. cs.	21
Beer, csks.	858
do. kegs	11
do. cs.	101
Bitters, cs.	122
Boilers, no.	2
Boots and shoes, pkgs.	1321
Buckwheat, bags	3
Butter, firkins	1028
Building materials—	
Lumber, feet	257,206
do. pcs.	131
Blinds, bdl.	1
Doors, bdls. and no.	748
Sash, bdls. and no.	369
Pickets, bdl.	1
Bran, bags	2473
Brandy, hhds.	13
do. ½ pipes	3
do. ¼ pipes	27
do. octaves	442
do. cs.	45
Bread, bbls.	477
do. cs.	767
Bread, pkgs.	473
Bricks, M.	203
Brooms, doz.	179
Camphene, cs.	357
Candles, bxs.	2920
Carts, no.	6
Cement, bbls.	148
Cider, bbls.	139
do. cs.	491
Cigars, cs.	157
Coal, csks.	4
Copper, cs.	2
Corn, sks.	98
Corn meal, puns.	4
do. bbls.	40
do. sks.	381
Coffee, bags	544
do. cs.	360
Cordage, coils.	251
do. pkgs.	95
Cheese, bxs.	95
do. pkgs.	118
China goods, pks.	1613
Chocolate, cs.	26
Clothing, pkgs.	666
Clocks, pkgs.	3
Crockery, csks.	9
do. pkgs.	35
Drugs, pkgs.	904
Dry goods, pkgs.	1633
Fancy goods, pkgs.	4
Fire crackers, bxs.	450
Fish, drums	19
do. bbls.	6
do. kits	140
do. bxs.	28

Flour, bbls.	2654
do. hf. sks. . .	4620
do. qr. sks. . .	39,761
Fruit, green and dried, bbls.	145
do. bxs. do. .	481
do. pkgs. do. .	64
Furniture, pks. . .	1135
Gin, pipes and puns. .	57
do. bbls.	9
do. kegs	2
do. cs.	248
Glass, bxs.	168
Glassware, pkgs. . .	131
Groceries, pkgs. . .	2567
Guns, cs.	4
Gunnies, bdls. . . .	104
do. bales . . .	48
Hams, casks	15
do. bbls.	260
do. pkgs.	33
Hardware, pkgs. .	2250
Hay, bales . . .	2911
Hollow-ware, pkgs. . .	10
do. pcs. . .	56
Hops, cs. and bales . .	23
Iron pipe, pcs. . . .	200
Lard, bbls.	6
do. cs.	397
Leather, rolls	21
Lead, white, kegs . .	172
Lime, bbls.	423
Liqueurs, cs.	104
Liquors, unspecified, octaves	59
do. do. bbls.	71
do. do. kegs.	250
do. do. cs. .	400
do. do. pkgs.	248
Maccaroni, bxs. . . .	133
Machinery, pcs. and pkgs.	323
Malt, sks.	386
Matches, cs.	103
Matting, rolls . . .	63
Merchandise, pkgs. .	1017
Metals, bars	600
do. cs. and bdls. .	409
Molasses and syrups, bbls.	15
do. kegs . .	1252
do. cs. . . .	153
Nails, kegs	751
Nuts, pkgs.	37
Oats, bags. . . .	1416
Oakum, bales. . . .	96
Oars, no.	442
do. pkgs.	38
Oil, bbls.	65
do. cs.	176
do. pkgs.	31
Paints, pkgs.	937
Paper, pkgs.	97
Pianos, no.	7
Pickles, preserves, &c.	1484
do. kegs	350
do. pkgs	29
Pipes, cs.	95
Pitch, bbls.	38
Plaster, bbls.	90
Pork, bbls.	316
Potatoes, bags . . .	394
Powder, kegs	34
do. bxs. . . .	23
Printing materials, pkgs.	7
Provisions, unspecified, pkgs.	174
Pumps, no.	11
Pure spirits, pipes . .	12

Pure spirits, bbls.	9
Quicksilver, flasks	19
Rice, mats	10,209
do. csks.	36
Rum, puns.	23
do. bbls.	45
do. keg	1
Saddlery, pkgs.	139
Safes, iron, no.	17
Salt, sks.	518
do. bbls.	14
do. bxs.	44
Sardines, cs.	101
Saw mills, no.	2
Ship chandlery, pkgs.	255
Shot, bags	19
do. kegs	9
Soap, bxs.	5095
Spices, cs.	489
do. pkgs.	50
Spirits, turpentine, cs.	13
Starch, bxs.	112
Stationery, pkgs.	169
Steel, pkgs.	239
Stoves, no. and pkgs.	816
Sugar, mats	2132
do. bbls.	465
do. bxs. and cs.	348
Sugar, pkgs.	56
Tar, bbls.	2
Teas, pkgs.	802
Tin, plate, bxs.	180
Tin ware, pkgs.	12
Tobacco, bales	7
do. cs. and bxs.	855
Tools, pkgs.	10
Trunks, no.	79
Tubs, nests	35
Twine, pkgs.	7
Vinegar, bbls.	32
do. kegs	81
Waggons, no.	3
Wheat, bags	177
Whisky, puns.	39
do. cs.	238
do. bbls.	136
do. kegs	61
Wine, pipes	3
do. csks.	167
do. bbls.	32
do. kegs	82
do. cs.	1258
do. bskts.	242
Yeast powders, cs.	128
Zinc, rolls	17

Arrangements have been made by which, since the 1st of March last, two steamers will run from San Francisco direct to Victoria in aid of the emigration movement.

Large numbers of mules have been imported from Sonora, to be employed in the transportation of provisions and other necessaries to the diggings as soon as the spring opens. The *Colonist* for December, 1861, says:—

"Every one expects a large immigration. We expect the living tide to commence flowing in the course of a month or six weeks—by the first of March at the utmost. The ebb in the immigration we expect will take place not earlier than the middle of August next. The number expected is variously estimated from 5000, the lowest, to 50,000 or 60,000, the highest. The only thing that can be done is to prepare. In preparing, then, to give the adventurers a hearty welcome, and turn their enterprise, labour, and capital to a profitable account, there are duties to be performed that devolve on the Government as well as on the people. If Government will put forth its energies in time, and do its work, industry and trade will fully do their part. If Government will build a wagon road—cut it out, bridge the creeks, shave down the bluff edges of ravines, and render the miry places passable—we may have wagons by the 1st of July running up as high as the mouth of Quesnelle River from Lillooet. Pack-trains would then only be required to carry provisions and passengers from the main trunk to the different mining localities. Ox-trains—twenty or fifty wagons in a company, as they go to New Mexico or Utah—could carry all the merchandise into the interior, and carry it far cheaper than mule or horse-wagons to the head of the wagon travel. They would be slower, but not the less sure. But the use of ox-trains depends on a passable wagon road, and the construction of the waggon roads depends on the Government. If Government does not construct the road, the division of the carrying industry into ox-trains and pack-trains is not likely to take place early enough this year to be of much account."

A December (1861) number of the Victoria *Press* reports the discovery of *copper* in the Cowichan district:—

"Messrs. Charles Smith and C. B. Young returned yesterday, after an absence of six days, from Cowichan District, whither they had gone on a prospecting tour for copper. They return entirely successful, having struck a lode of rich copper near the water's edge of Sansum Channel, and bring with them about 1500 pounds of ore, which is pronounced to be very rich by judges. The lode is about two feet thick, and was traced to a distance of half a mile. It was discovered by Mr. Smith about a year since, and himself and Mr. Young have now pre-empted it."

That the whole of this region possesses immense mineral wealth there cannot be any hesitation in believing. The richness of the new Nova Scotia gold fields, and the discovery of gold in the Stickeen River which, by the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia, is thrown open to the former Power, tend to increase the absorbing interest now manifested by the industrial classes both in England and elsewhere in this part of the world. Respecting the auriferous deposits in Nova Scotia, we beg to refer our readers to the *Times* of Feb.

21, 1862. On the subject of the "Stickeen gold," a Canadian paper of recent date has the following:—

"Mr. Choquette brings about $40 worth of Stickeen gold dust, which he dug himself, from the river bars. The dust is of the class denominated fine, although a portion of it is in small scales. The prospecter left here in May last for the Stickeen River, in an Indian canoe, and reached there in June. The river has three mouths, and is a much larger stream than the Frazer. For 40 miles from the coast, along the river banks, snow-clad and precipitous mountains rear their heads, and the country presents a very uninviting aspect. The general characteristics are similar to the Frazer—with occasional sloughs and island, but no rapids. After the first 40 miles are accomplished, the open country commences and the mountains recede from the banks and become less precipitous. Fine gravel benches, covered with tall grass, and extensive bars are seen. Light-draught boats could ascend a distance of 75 miles, after which small boats must be used for 30 or 40 miles, when a *canion*, twelve miles long (the only one on the river), occurs. Here the prairie land commences. This prairie land is covered with fine grass, and is intersected by Indian trails. Game of every kind is abundant. The climate is delightful—only one rainy day having occurred in five weeks; and up to the 1st of October there were no signs of frost. A good trail, which the Indians say leads to Fort Alexandria, on the Frazer River, exists on the Northern shore of the river.

Over this trail they claim that they can make a trip to Frazer River in a few days. Our informant made a very imperfect rocker with a knife and some Indian tools, and started to work on a bar about 100 miles from the river's mouth; but finding the results not so favourable as he had hoped, removed to a bar some miles higher up, where he made the first day $5 50; second day, $10; third day, $11; fourth day, $12; and on the last day, $13. A great deal of the gold, being fine, was lost, owing to the poor rocker used. At the close of the fourth day, Mr. Choquette's wife (a Stickeen woman) was taken violently ill, and he accordingly placed her in a canoe and came down the stream. The Indians, although threatening, committed no depredations upon the property of the prospecter, owing, no doubt, to his alliance with their countrywoman. The higher Mr. C. ascended the river, the coarser the gold became. Several small streams making into the Stickeen River from the North and South were prospected, but the results were not satisfactory. Four Indians, who worked in company with the prospecter, made as high as $9 a day to the hand. Mr. Choquette says he found gold on the Naas River two years ago, and that on several other rivers making into the ocean between the Naas and Stickeen, he got good prospects. He has mined in California, and was a '58 pioneer on the Frazer, and declares that he never saw a more favourable-looking country for minerals than that bordering on the Stickeen. So confident is he of finding great diggings that he will return as soon as he can procure an outfit and a conveyance. Mr. Choquette seems a very straightforward man, and his veracity is vouched for by persons to whom he is well known."

The following testimony is singularly unanimous:—

The Victoria *Daily Press* of October 15, 1861, says:—

"The accumulation of the startling but veritable facts which come one after another, each growing greater than its predecessor, by every steamer from the Frazer, is really an excuse for the mania which at present pervades all classes of society in Victoria. To say that our population have gone mad might be using an expression rather exaggerated, but to state that almost every person in the community is deeply infected with the gold fever and declares his intention at all hazards of leaving for Cariboo in the spring, is simply recording a fact which meets one's ear in every house and every street. It is no wonder that Jones gets excited when his friend Smith who, not five months ago, had not $200 in the world he could call his own, comes down from Cariboo heavily laden with $20,000 or $30,000 in gold. Were these isolated cases the delirium might be confined to a small circle, but there is by no means a limited supply of such lucky miners. Victoria will be in another week literally inundated with successful Cariboosites. Never in the history of gold-mining have there been such fabulous sums amassed in so incredibly short a space of time. But a few months ago and the whole collective miners in British Columbia did not possess as large a sum as that which arrived by the last trip of the *Otter*, yet since the spring $2,000,000 have actually been taken out of the few creeks that have been worked in the Cariboo. When we consider the smallness of the number of men—fifteen hundred—the shortness of the season, and the thousand and one drawbacks which miners experience in the heart of a country so new to civilized man, and so far from the sea coast, we can only come to the universal conclusion that British Columbia admits of no comparison in the world as a gold-producing country. From a letter received by a gentleman in town yesterday morning by Major Downie, we have the statement of this experienced and indefatigable miner to the effect that the richest portions of California in its most palmy days are as nothing compared with what he has seen since he left Victoria for the Cariboo."

The *British Colonist*, of the 22nd October, says:—

"Nothing is talked of now-a-days but the Cariboo mines. When the excitement following the discovery of gold on Frazer's River was at its highest in California, in 1858, it was not a more universal topic of conversation than Cariboo is here at the present time. Were we to believe what we hear, we would conclude that everybody will go 'to Cariboo in the spring.' The fabulous accounts of 'rich strikes' almost bewilder people. Accustomed to think eight dollar and twenty dollar diggings exceedingly rich, it is difficult to realise the fact that men who left the shoe-bench, or the hoe, or the jack plane, and went to Cariboo last spring, should, after two or three months' labour with pick and shovel, living on bacon and beans, return with three, five, ten, twenty, and thirty thousand dollars each. It is hardly believable even by those who are accustomed to 'lucky strikes' and rich gold fields. Yet it is, nevertheless, true. It is well authenticated. The best possible evidence is given by the lucky miners themselves, by the size of their bags of gold dust and the nuggets they carry in their pockets as boys carry marbles. No wonder, then, that the only topic of conversation is Cariboo, or that the universal destination of every one who can by any possibility get away should be 'for Cariboo in the spring.'"

A voice from Lilloet gives similar evidence:—

"The news from the Cariboo mines is very encouraging; miners are reported to be on the way down, some with $15,000, others with piles that I think are too good to be reliable, but on the whole the people of British Columbia may flatter themselves that they have the richest gold mines at present existing on the face of the globe.

"Since I wrote the above several miners have arrived from Cariboo, bringing the most exciting news as to the richness of the mines. One man that wintered last winter at Lilloet brings down $15,000; he made shingles last winter for a living.

There is not only a few who have made big strikes, but many have made a handsome fortune, and those that have not been fortunate are in good spirits and are certain of big strikes next summer. Five hundred miners are expected down in a week or two, so we may expect lively times for a spell."

A correspondent of the *Christian Guardian* says:—

"The bags of dust which are now coming down confound and strike dumb every person who has dared to call Fraser's River gold mines a humbug. If I had time and space I would fill sheets with the reports of lucky ones. I could give you a long list of those who went up last spring with hardly enough to pay their expenses to Cariboo, and are now returning with from $5000 to $20,000 each. Some intelligent persons who have seen California in its best days have lately made tours of observation in our mines, and they declare that Cariboo surpasses California (so far as prospected) in its palmiest days.

"It is matter also of great satisfaction, now when the exceeding richness and vastness of our mines are being proved beyond controversy, that the excellence of our climate and agricultural resources could develope themselves. The recent explorations of Colonel Moody and others establish the fact that between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains, and not far from the West Mines, there are millions of acres of prairie and woodland highly suitable for farming and grazing purposes. Several who commenced gardening two years ago have cleared from $5000 to $15,000. A great many will go out gardening, &c., in the upper country, next spring. We are preparing to send such reports and specimens to the 'World's Fair' of 1862, as will not fail to remove some of the clouds and fogs that have hung over the prospects of this colony. When the truth, as it now presents itself to us, is lifted up to the eyes of the nations, it will completely eclipse the most hopeful and flattering passages that I have ever written from this country. I have always written very cautiously, and now I am afraid to write the whole truth, lest my readers would not receive it."

The accompanying table, taken from the *Oregon Farmer*, shews the relative fineness of the dust assayed by Mr. Agrell, of Portland :—

	Fineness.	Value per oz.
Fraser River	830 to 850	$17 15·75 to $17 15·11
Rhodes' Creek	800 to 830	$16 53·75 to $17 15·75
Nez Perces	770 to 800	$15 91·73 to $16 53·75
Rock Creek	810 to 840	$16 74·42 to $17 36·43
Cariboo	815 to 830	$16 84·75 to $17 15·75
Colville	770 to 809	$15 91·78 to $16 72·35
South Fork	829 to 830	$16 95·69 to $17 15·75

The annexed extracts are from the letter forwarded to head-quarters by the *Times* correspondent, and published in that journal on the 25th March, 1862 :—

Victoria, Vancouver Island, Jan. 20, 1862.*

Beginning with Frazer River, the main artery of the auriferous region, I may state that gold is known to exist and has been worked at a great many places in the river and on its banks from a point about forty-five miles from the mouth of the river up to near its source in the Rocky Mountains; in other words, from the 49th up to the 53rd parallel of north latitude, a distance (taking in the windings) of some 800 miles. The south branch of the Frazer has its sources near Mount Brown in the Rocky Mountains, in about 53° north latitude, 118° 40′ west longitude. Thence this branch flows for 390 miles to Fort George, a post of the Hudson's Bay Company. The north branch rises in an opposite direction. It receives its supply from a series of lakes lying between 54° and 55° of north latitude, longitude about 124° 50′ west, and runs a course of 260 miles to its junction with the south branch, some miles below the 54th parallel of north latitude. Here the union of the two branches forms the Frazer River proper. Adding the north branch, which is also a gold-bearing stream, and which was "worked" last season, to the other arm, the two will give us a continuous stretch of auriferous riverain territory upwards of 1000 miles in length, extending for many miles back into the country on both sides, but not including the tributary rivers which fall into the Frazer. In short, the river itself is now known to be auriferous, and to pass through a gold-bearing country throughout its whole course. Gold is also found in most of the tributaries of the Frazer, of which no less than 59 are known. The great length of the main river and the number of its tributaries will give some idea of the auriferous resources of the country.

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* See on this letter and the leader which appeared in the same number of the *Times*, a sensible article in the *Examiner* for March 29, 1862.

Besides the gold found in the beds and on the shores of these streams, the Frazer itself and many of its tributaries are skirted or bordered by terraces, all of which yield gold also. These terraces, or "benches," as the miners call them, run at intervals, along both sides of the rivers for miles in length; and they recede where the mountains retire, for distances back into the valleys, varying from a few acres to a few miles in breadth. They are objects of curiosity and speculation, and add much to the beauty of the rude scenes in which they occur, from the regularity and evenness of their structure. They generally occur on both sides of the river (opposite to each other), at the same place, sometimes at the same elevations on both sides, sometimes at different elevations, high on this and low on the other side of the river; and in some places they are multiplied into several successive level parallel plateaux, rising one above the other as they recede from the bank. These terraces are composed of the ordinary alluvial deposits—loam, gravel, stones, sand, and boulders; and they are thick masses rising generally to a height of 150 to 200 feet.

This geological formation occurs more frequently on the Frazer than on the other rivers. The terraces are also larger on the main river, in some cases assuming the proportions of hills, all with regular and perpendicular faces. Their formation is perhaps due to the fact that the valleys between the mountains were at one period filled up, or perhaps formed lakes. Each "bench" may mark successive periods of drainage or subsidence of the water; and their present elevation above the rivers may be due to their having been cut away by the rapid-flowing streams. The tumultuous and swift-flowing Frazer would soon cut a bed for itself (as it has done) down to the rock.

The terraces contain vast deposits of gold; and to be worked to advantage the "bench diggings" must command a stream of water supplied from a source higher than their own surfaces, so as to give a fall to enable the miner to apply the water to the face of the "bench" by a hose. The force of the stream is due to the height of the fall. A good strong stream playing upon the face of the hill will disintegrate a great quantity of "pay dirt" in a short time. The floating rubbish, or "dirt," is caught in a long sluice at the base, provided with "riffles" on the bottom, and spread with quicksilver to catch the gold. This mode of mining is called by the miners "hydraulic mining." Such is the wealth of Cariboo that no quicksilver was used, for the miner could afford to lose all the "fine dust" and to be satisfied with the "lumps."

It happens, fortunately, that Frazer River and most of its tributaries supply water in abundance at an elevation which affords the necessary fall, from the elevated and broken character of the country; while there are inexhaustible supplies in the numerous lakes dispersed all over the upper district. Timber for the erection of "flumes" is also abundant everywhere.

The canal system of British Columbia will be comparatively inexpensive from the abundance of water and its eligibility, encouraging facts to the miner, because the small outlay of capital required will keep his "water dues" low.

A good deal of capital has been already invested profitably in "water ditches," or canals for the supply of the miners on the Frazer, by old miners who had saved money and by persons unconnected with mining. This interest will in time become a good subject for the investment of English capital, as the mining population increases.

In British Columbia, property is fully protected by law, and its legitimate profits are secured to the capitalist who has invested his money in canals not more by the operation of the Gold Fields Act than by the existence of a healthy public sentiment. On the one hand, while the capitalist is allowed to realize a handsome return from his charges for the supply of water, the miner is, on the other hand, protected from extortion. Differences do arise, but they are always settled in a rational and peaceable way, either by appeal to the Gold Commissioner of the district, who has the power to take cognizance of such cases, or to the judge of the colony, who acts judicially.

Whenever the "bench diggings" have been "worked" they have paid well. They have been neglected for the greater attractions of the "placer diggings," where the gold is found nearer the surface and with less labour. But I consider this class of diggings of great prospective value. They will give employment to two interests—capital and labour. They are generally situated within easy reach of supplies. They are more accessible to all the influences of civilization than more interior localities. They are in the neighbourhood of some good land, which will enable the labourer to alternate his time between mining and husbandry, and where he can make his *home*—the great want which the mines generally do not supply.

Although now neglected, the "benches" will be appreciated and come into play when the efflorescence of gold near the surface shall have been exhausted. When this happens they will supply wealth and a profitable living to a mixed population of miners, ditch-owners, traders, and labourers, and that for a long period of time, of which no one can compute the numbers of the one nor the duration of the other.

The reports of the mining this season on the Fraser in the space between Fort Hope and Fort George, a distance of about 270 miles, give the daily individual earnings at all sums between $3 and $15. Very little has as yet been done between these two points, and very little will be done so long as the attractions of $100 to $1000 a-day continue elsewhere. I will now carry you to other mining localities.

The Similkameen mines yielded last season $16 to $17 a-day to the hand occasionally. A party of three men took $240 in three days' work from "sluice diggings;" and the "rocker," used in "wet diggings," yielded $4, $5, and up to $8 a-day to the hand. Number of miners 200, of whom 150 were Chinese. A wagon road for 25 miles from Hope, and a bridle road of 15 miles in continuation, approach this district.

Sixty miles further to the southward comes Okanagan. The average yield here was only $4 a-day, and the miners were few—some 26 men, some of whom divided their time between mining and husbandry. Okanagan Lake, a beautiful sheet of water, in a rich pastoral district, is from 80 to 100 miles long, and 8 to 10 miles wide, deep, and well suited to navigation. There is a small population in the valley, chiefly French Canadians, and a Catholic mission. There are two small lakes tributary to the great lake, and nineteen streams fall into the latter, of which seven yield gold.

In the same general direction, and distant from Fort Hope 150 miles, is Rock Creek, close to the American frontier (lat. 49° north), and 60 miles west of the Columbia River. The longitude of Rock Creek is 119° west. This place acquired a temporary reputation in 1860 for the richness of its mines, when a considerable population flocked to it and extemporized a town. In 1861 most of the miners were seduced away by the superior attractions of Cariboo, the latest and richest Eldorado yet discovered, so that only 30 white men and 225 Chinamen remained.

A party of three white men saved in the season $12,000 that I know of, after paying expenses; $100 a-day to the hand was sometimes made. The average earnings are returned at $7 a-day per man. There are both "bench" and "wet" diggings, and both are productive and extensive. The place is now abandoned.

There being no more mining localities of any note on the southern frontier, we will proceed to the northward and westward for about 120 miles, passing on the way several auriferous streams flowing southward, and in fact, in every direction, as well as a pastoral and agricultural country of great extent, without comment for the present, and get into the heart of the Thompson River country, as established by the Hudson Bay Company in their nomenclature of local divisions of the "Indian Country."

If you could fancy yourself on the banks of the Thompson you would find it a large, swift-flowing river, rolling with considerable impetuosity between high rocky banks. Near its mouth it is too full, too rapid, and too rocky for mining. Its source is not in the mountains, but comes from the overflow of a series of lakes dispersed over a large extent of the central portion of the country which lies to the eastward of the Fraser, and stretches over more than two degrees of latitude and as many of longitude. It falls into the Fraser, after running a very tortuous course of perhaps a hundred miles, at the small town of Lytton, a mining and trading hamlet on the forks of the two rivers, 75 miles (above) north and a little to the west of Fort Hope.

Several streams flow into the Thompson—the Nicaomeen and the Nicola on its left or east bank. We are now in what may emphatically be called the "Lake District." The last-mentioned little river drains two lakes, Nicola Lake and Stump Lake—the first eight miles by three, the other much smaller. The next tributary is the Buonaparte, on the opposite side—a very important river, from its rich auriferous deposits and from the valuable arable soil through which it flows. It drains nine lakes, two of which, Loon and Vert, are each about 12 miles long. After receiving the Buonaparte, the Thompson describes three great tortuous bends, which brings it up to Lake Kamloops, which empties into it (I am describing the river up stream). Lake Kamloops is 20 miles long by five miles wide. From this lake the river continues its course to the east and north, receives the waters of North River, and extends to Shushwap Lake, which also discharges into the Thompson. Shushwap Lake, a fine sheet of water, situated in a rich pastoral country, 45 miles long, 5 to 10 miles wide, and studded with islands, receives the waters of two other lakes, which discharge by the Barrière River, as well as those of two rivers of considerable length which rise in the range that divides the valley of the

Frazer from that of the Columbia. The lake is a little below the 51st parallel of north latitude, and the 119° of west longitude passes over the east end of it. Kamloops Lake is about a degree further west, and about 12 miles further south. The Tranquille and the Copper River both fall into the the latter lake.

The North River, already mentioned, runs nearly due north for a great portion of its course. Correctly speaking, it runs *from* the north, but I am describing as if I were ascending the river. This river has several tributaries of great length, some rising far to the eastward in the watershed of the great valley of the Frazer, and others draining a long chain of lakes stretching far up into the country beyond the 53rd parallel of north latitude, and embracing nearly three degrees of longitude; while its "head waters" flow from a range which is the watershed of Swamp River, flowing in an opposite direction into the Cariboo country.

All the streams which I have mentioned are auriferous—those which are tributary to the Thompson itself, and those which are tributary to its affluents.

Such portions of the Thompson as run through somewhat level ground are also auriferous. Seven miles from Kamloops, 150 miners worked upon one of such portions and made $16 a-day to the man, "rocking" on the "bars" in the bed when the river was low. The banks are very extensive, but require water ditches for "washing" them, as they run high. Tranquille yielded $7, $15, and $20 a-day to "a crowd of Chinamen." North River gave $8 to $10 a day to the hand; and on the Barrière a community of French Canadians made as high as $50 a-day to the hand. Beyond the portions of North River which have been worked for gold near its embouchure, the country hereabouts has not been prospected. This is about the centre of the colony, and about 80 miles of this space from south to north, by about 100 miles from east to west, have not been developed. It may be auriferous; but its character on the face of the soil is pastoral. It is a high table-land which produces abundant pasture, free from forest, and only interspersed with timber. Its climate in summer is dry and equable, and in winter cold, but not severe; and noted for its salubrity. In fact, the climate of British Columbia is good throughout the whole extent of the country, and there is no drawback except from the presence of the mosquitoes in summer. These insects are so numerous as to form a pest while they prevail.

If we could pursue a straight western course from the Fort to Frazer River for about 100 miles, we should strike the new town of Lillooett, situated at a point where the two great routes of travel into the interior meet that from Hope and Lytton by the river, and that by the Harrison Valley and the Lillooett chain of lakes. Lillooet is the great final starting point to the northern mines, and beyond this there is no made road, and no other means of transport than horses, mules, and what the miners expressively term "footing it."

Lillooett is distant from the mouth of the Frazer (on the Gulf of Georgia) by the river route, *viâ* Hope, Yale, and Lytton, 220 miles; and by the Harrison route, *viâ* Harrison Lake, by steamer, Douglas, portages, and four lakes, crossed by steamers, 238 miles. The first route commands steamers up to Yale, the rest of the journey must be ridden or walked. The other route commands steamers to Douglas; a stage coach thence to Williams's Lake, 29½ miles, on a road made along the Harrison River, chiefly by the Royal Engineers; n open boat on the first lake of five miles, teamers on the other three lakes, which are ogether 49 miles long, and the portages between he lakes and Lillooett, which in the aggregate of he four of them are 33¾ miles long, can be ridden r walked. Both routes afford prospects of beauty nd grandeur seldom seen elsewhere, but I dare ot trespass on your space so far as to describe hem, nor could I do justice to the subject if I ried. From Lillooett to the first or lower Ca- boo mines the distance is about 260 miles.

A few miles beyond Lillooett, and on the same he west) side, Bridge River falls into the Frazer. ridge River is very rich in gold. The Indians of e neighbourhood make considerable earnings in working in the rudest manner with the most efficient implements. It was here the Bishop of lumbia found them making an ounce a-day to the hand, as I mentioned in my last letter. Nodules of pure copper have been found in the bed of the river, indicating the existence of copper veins in the neighbouring banks.

Quesnelle River has two branches, one of which drains Quesnelle Lake, lying a degree and a-half to the eastward of the Fraser, and which is 50 miles long. The other branch drains Cariboo Lake, which receives Swamp River and Lower Cariboo Lake, into which Keithley's Creek, one of the Cariboo streams, empties. At the junction of the two branches a town, the nearest to Cariboo diggings, is built, chiefly for the supply of the latter. The place is called "The Forks of Quesnelle."

Both branches of the Quesnelle are highly auriferous. Mining began here in 1859, and led to the discovery of Cariboo, situate 50 miles further north. The returns for last summer were that nine out of ten of the claims paid over an ounce a-day to the hand. The river banks enable the miners to work in winter. The diggings must be rich to have retained any miners so close to Cariboo, where fortunes were made in the course of a few weeks.

One grand prominent feature of the country is a chain of mountains which run from our southern frontier (on 49° north latitude) in a north-westerly direction through the country, and in fact, beyond the northern limit of the colony. This range is in many parts very lofty, runs nearly parallel to the Rocky Mountains, and bears the successive names of the Snowy Mountains, the Bald Mountains, and the Peak Mountains, from the height of several of the more elevated portions having induced the belief that those portions were detached mountains, and not parts of a connected chain. It is now known that the different eminences, which at a distance seem to be isolated, in reality form but one vast range subordinate to the Rocky Mountains. It, in fact, forms the watershed of the great basin of the Fraser River, one side of which drains itself into the valley of the Fraser, and the other into that of the Columbia. The whole of this vast range is now known to be auriferous. It has been traced for 400 miles, and "fine and coarse gold is everywhere found on its western slopes from Rock Creek in the south to Cariboo in the north." Cariboo itself is but one point in the range. It is nearly all in British territory, extending, as already remarked, beyond the northern frontier of British Columbia and into the Indian territory of Stickeen, to the east of the Russian possessions on the Pacific. It is the longest stretch of continuous inland gold-bearing country yet discovered in the world. Its value and importance are incalculable both to the mother country and to these colonies, for when it comes to be efficiently worked by tunnelling it may continue to produce gold for ages, as long, perhaps, as gold retains its value among mankind. Respecting Cariboo, Governor Douglas was good enough to furnish me with the following statement in writing.

taken down by himself from a Cariboo miner, Mr. Steele; but I received it after I had finished my letter:—

"Steele's company consisted of five partners, of which Mr. Steele, an American, was one. Their claim was on Williams's Creek (Cariboo, of course). In the summer they sawed the lumber themselves, and made their own sluices. Their claim did not prospect as good as many other claims. Nevertheless, they went at it with a will; made nothing the first three days; persevered, and the fourth day made 4oz.; the fifth day, 10oz.; and the sixth day, 41oz. (the market value of 41oz. of gold in sterling is 290*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*). From that time, after the sixth day's work, when the return rose to 41oz. a day, it kept increasing, until it reached 387oz. a day; and the last day's work yielded a return of 409oz. The five partners employed 'four hired hands' to assist them to clear away the tailings. The claim was one of the most difficult to work, as it required eight feet to eighteen feet of top-stripping of superincumbent earth which covered the auriferous stratum, or 'pay-dirt.' This latter was composed of a blue clay, six feet thick, mixed with gravel and decomposed slate. The whole area of the mine worked was only eighty feet by twenty-five feet, and the yield amounted to $105,000, equal to 21,875*l.* That so much gold was dug out of so small a space as eighty feet by twenty-five feet is a pregnant fact. It proves that the wealth buried in this remote region lies concentrated in masses thick and plentiful, which is corroborated by the shortness of the period of labour—not over two months' actual work. This is a short period to have earned 21,875*l.* in, certainly, yet the exuberance of the gold of these mines is more clearly demonstrated by the rapidity of the accumulation. I shall show this result more clearly by converting Mr. Steele's gold ounces into American currency. The produce of the labour of the first day that the claim yielded anything was $68; that of the next day, $170; of the following day, $697; and so on, increasing until it reached the astounding sum of $6579 in a day; and culminated in a 'return' of $6953 on the 'last day's work.'

"To prevent any exaggeration in my conversion of the gold-dust, I have taken the money value of the ounce at $17, although the average value of Cariboo 'dust' is $17 65c. and 37-1000ths, so that I am under the mark. In other words, this company's gold produced to the partners more money in the market than I have valued it at. Their gold may have been worth $18 the ounce."

To show still more clearly to *English* readers the prospects and rewards of labour in British Columbia, I will paraphrase Mr. Steele's statement, which will place it in another and, perhaps, more practical light. I will suppose that the five miners who owned this mining claim were Englishmen, and that they had sent their earnings home. The gold would, by the rule of trade, go to the Bank of England, and be converted into sterling money—say in London. I will deduct all the charges of remitting the bullion (gold-dust), and then see what the miners would have, net money, in London. The fruit of their first day's "yield" would be 13*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; of the next day's yield, 34*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; the following day's yield, 1343*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*; and the last day's yield would be 1419*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* The mines would have been to them a prolific mother, for the last day's return shows an increase of 76*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* over and above the general run of the yield of "lucky days," as the miners term their successful and satisfactory periods. Mr. Steele's return of the gross yield was corroborated by the quantity of gold-dust brought to Victoria, where he remained for some time. Indeed, the miners seldom exaggerate their earnings. Their general reports take the opposite direction. The partners return to their claim in Cariboo in the spring to resume work, and they expect to do much better next season, as the mine is already well opened. To have made the statement complete, I should have mentioned that the four hired men did not share in the profits. They were paid $8 a-day wages and "found;" and they did not work during the whole season.

I may assert that there are no low earnings. Here is exactly how the matter stands. Some of the Chinamen, while serving their novitiate, are satisfied with such poor diggings as yield only $1 to $2 a day, but they are soon forced by their taskmasters, who paid their expenses from China and San Francisco, and for whose benefit they labour, and who tax them both for repayment of these expenses and for a profit on the venture, to abandon such poor diggings for a richer. And as to white miners, not one of them will work for the small earnings I have mentioned. If a miner cannot fall upon a rich "claim" he will hire himself to other more fortunate claim-owners, who will pay him from $5 to $10 a day, according to location and circumstances. In this way it comes that no poor diggings are worked. The surface of the mineral region is being "skimmed"—not efficiently worked. But by and by the miners will be satisfied with ground which they now reject. This time is distant, however, owing to the extent of the field, unless the country receives a large addition to its mining population. I suppose it would take half a million of miners to bring the mines into play. It would take a much larger population to develope them efficiently.

Another cause influences the miner in his conduct. Wages generally are high for all kinds of labour. Common labourers get $3 a day at the lowest, some get more. Farm labourers get 6*l.* a month and are "found." I pay an English labourer whom I found working on the roads 10*l.* a month, and he "finds" himself, for looking after my horse and doing odds and ends about the place. This was his pay from the road contractor. Mechanics get $5 (1*l.*) a day. With these rates of wages in competition with mining, and with the prices of provisions very high in the remote mining country, owing to expense of transport, the miner naturally abandons poor diggings which yield a low return; so you understand why there are no *low* returns.

My advice to emigrants from the old country will be short, and, while it can easily be remembered, cannot be misunderstood. British Columbia wants two classes only—men with money, and men with bodily strength—*capitalists and labourers.* Both classes will do well. The one will find lucrative employment for its capital, the other still more profitable employment for its labour. If either fails it will be its own fault. Should either of these two classes be married, let them bring their wives and families; the more numerous the progeny the better.

The *Times* newspaper in its leader of the 25th March last, and the *Times'* correspondent in his letter here quoted, have certainly conspired to draw a glowing and seductive picture of the condition and prospects of British Columbia as a gold-producing colony. The *Times'* account is no doubt true enough in the main; but that the colouring of the leading article especially, is often too high, there is abundant evidence. Still the Governor, in his latest despatches, speaks favourably of the social state of the gold districts, and of the respect generally paid by the miners to public order. The *Times'* articles are full of sunshine; other writers tell a different tale. It is a difficult course to judge between the two; but, nevertheless, that is the course which we have endeavoured to pursue. We feel it to be our duty to present to intending emigrants, not a fancy landscape, but as true an idea as possible of the locality in which they may be about to plant themselves; and we believe that we should be greatly misled if we accepted unreservedly either the statements of the *Times*, or the far less sanguine views propounded in other quarters. We repeat that Governor Douglas—no contemptible authority—invariably reports well of the settlement; and the Bishop of Columbia has always been a firm believer in its success and prosperity. At the same time, we do not entertain the slightest doubt that drunkenness and every form of depravity may be witnessed *ad nauseam* at the diggings; but the question is, in what part of the globe may not these vices be witnessed? Things will find their level by degrees, and some sort of society will grow out of the present chaos; but in the interim, anybody who goes out to these latitudes must look for rough work and rougher neighbours. Still, nobody who keeps his eyes open, who uses his hands well, and who is temperate and thrifty in his habits, has the slightest reason to be discouraged; for he will find in British Columbia, with its coal beds, its gold fields, its copper, and its agricultural resources, such an opening as perhaps he would find nowhere else on the surface of the globe; and at this moment there are thousands on their way, sharing in this faith, and who, if they be true to themselves, and forswear the temptations inseparable from life in a young colony, will prosper beyond their brightest expectations.

We conclude with a few select extracts from the *Journal* of the Bishop of Columbia :—

"*May* 22, 1860.—Laid corner-stone of Trinity Church, New Westminster. The site of the new church is a very beautiful one in Victoria Gardens, and, commanding an extensive view, will be a most prominent object from the river to steamers arriving from the sea; at present two deep ravines are on either side, around it are large stumps of trees, and the ground is entirely unlevelled. Here the frame of the flooring had been laid, being massive sills on thick short columns of wood. Under one of these 'pinnings,' the south-east outer corner of the porch, was laid the stone, of granite; a bottle of coins, with inscription, was inserted. The same form of service was used as at St. John's, Victoria; the service was commenced by Mr. Sheepshanks, and the Bishop followed. The Governor laid the stone.

"*June*, 1860.—One of the most interesting things in connexion with gold-mining is the courage and enterprise of the miner. Water is absolutely necessary for two purposes: washing away the earth above the gold, and washing the earth or 'pay dirt' which contains the gold. For the former work an immense power of water is frequently necessary; this is brought from a distance in wooden canals, aqueducts, and courses excavated in the soil or rock, and this is made to descend upon the workings, and applied by a hose to wash away vast masses of earth.

"At Hill's Bar I visited to-day an aqueduct two miles long, which had cost $12,000, or 2400*l.*;

a company accomplished it in twelve shares, eight of which were held by one man. The miners of the various claims pay for a head of water five dollars a day. Sometimes there will be forty claims and this flume will be making to the proprietors 200 dollars, or 40*l.* a day. We visited spots where, by working without the sluicing power, Chinese were making five dollars a day. The *sluice* is where the water is brought in a body from the flume, and continual shovelling of earth into the sluice boxes produces a large return of gold, because more earth can be washed, and the more earth washed in a given time, the greater the yield. The *rocker* is by the river-side. It is a sort of wheelbarrow on rollers, with a scuttle front; within is a sieve, beneath which are two blankets, and at the bottom is a copper plate with quicksilver; the 'pay earth' is cast into the sieve, and the machine rocked with one hand while the other hand keeps pouring in water; the earth and water pass through the sieve and blankets; the sieve stops the stones and larger particles, the blanket catches other atoms of gold, &c., and the quicksilver retains the golden dust.

"*June* 5.—I heard a strange noise in passing near an Indian hut; when I approached I found it to be that of Skiyon, the Indian bear-hunter. His wife had her sick child in her lap. Before her was the medicine man practising enchantments upon the child. He was a strong-featured man of about forty. He repeated over and over a few words with considerable gesture. Occasionally he would stroke the breast and stomach of the child. Beside him was a basin of water with some whitening mixture in it; this he would take and rub upon his hands, or he would blow into his hands and upon the child, then burst forth again into his lament and incantation. The mother held the infant towards him, and evidently felt considerable faith in the enchanter.

"Overtook a miner from California, with a revolver on one side and a bowie-knife on the other. I spoke about the former; he said they were needed in California, but not here.

"I have met very few miners with their weapons; once none went without. Things are now as quiet and orderly as possible. All classes are well-treated. Chinamen, Indians, and Blacks, have justice equal with others. Indeed it is evident that what the Californian looked upon as a sign of high spirit and courage he now thinks little of, and these terrible weapons are put away.

"*June* 7.—I took a walk with Mr. Pringle along a beautiful and romantic trail, following a stream and glen to Lake Dallas, and then through a gorge into a valley on its northern side, where was a stream wending its way to the Frazer. I visited some of the Indian potato grounds in that valley; the soil is very rich. The rows of potatoes were laid with great regularity, indeed in figures and patterns such as you see on their basket-work. They also 'earth up' at the proper time, which shows a more advanced state than I expected. We ascended a height, and upon a rocky, mossy knoll, shaded by pines, we had an extensive view of mountain and river scenery. I could have sat there for hours, impressed with the grandeur of the works of God. How insignificant the most gigantic accomplishments of man! We were then on the east side of the Quequealla. A canoe, paddled by an Indian and his squaw, brought us quickly down the rapid, rolling, swelling Frazer, to Hope, for which we paid the sum of a dollar, 4*s.* 2*d.*, for half an hour's paddle. These Indians are well paid."

"*June* 14.—I crossed the river opposite Yale, and took the trail to Hill's Bar. We walked through groves of young pines; much of the ground is cleared.

"Hill's Bar, about a couple of miles below Yale, was the scene of great excitement in 1858; it was the richest of all the diggings; thousands flocked to it, and thousands of pounds have been extracted from it. It was here that the McGowan riots took place. Then Colonel Moody marched up his men to capture the rioters, but when he came to the spot drank champagne with them instead.

"The first gold diggings were upon the bank of the river; upon this bank grew giant trees—all these, and acres of soil, have been swept away to the depth of some ten or twelve feet. It is now found that the higher banks, or flats, still further from the river, are very auriferous. These are now being worked.

"The excitement of gold-mining is great. The miners seem never to tire. There is an interest in the work which always sustains them. I was told cards and whiskey are their bane. They seldom play for money, but for drink, a dollar a game. A reckless man will go into Yale on Sunday, and spend twenty-five to forty dollars in drink and treating others. There are, however, many temperate men. A friend of mine, though an old miner, never touches spirit, only porter and ale. He always has a dozen of English porter in his house (on the Bar).

"*June* 26.—On this my 44th birthday, I awoke on the floor of a log-hut, in the wild and almost inaccessible recesses of the Cascade Mountains, the Frazer flowing at my feet. The five other individuals who occupied other parts of the room had been not otherwise than quiet; sleep, however, I had had but little. I rose about half-past five. A comfortable breakfast at seven, of tea and coffee, ham, &c., prepared us for the arduous day before us. Our horses had arrived in the neighbourhood the night before, and about eight came up ready equipped.

"The Frazer is about 250 yards broad at this point. The current is strong. A rope is suspended from bank to bank. From this rope is tackle, which works the large punt-shaped ferry-boat. A most ingenious method; the current acting as the wind acts upon a sail, the side of the boat being the sail, and kept by the tackle in an inclified position to the stream. The stronger the current the less inclined need be the boat. Without the slightest difficulty the ferry is thus quickly crossed.

"The view of the Frazer, encompassed in mountains from the front, or rather from a point near, is grand indeed.

"*July* 10.—Packing is one of the most lucrative employments. A train of twelve or eighteen horses and mules very soon pays the expense of first cost, and then great profits are made. The packers are principally Mexicans; there are, however, many Americans.

"I met this day a train under the conduct of a very odd-looking dust-begrimed packer. He had a broken-in, slouched wide-awake. I was introduced to him. His speech showed him to be an educated English gentleman. A few years since he was a smart officer with his regiment in Canada. He came to California, where he followed 'packing.' He now packs on British soil with the best horse-pack in the colony.

"*July* 18.—All merchandize is carried here upon pack-horses, the only exception being that Indians also carry goods. Pack-mules carry the heaviest loads. I saw mules to-day packed with nearly 400 lbs. of goods. There is a great art in packing; *bulk* is the thing to avoid; if a pack is in small compass much more can be carried than when the contrary.

"*July* 20.—Columbia does not abound in the feathered tribe. I have seen, however, eagles, hawks, rooks, jays, grouse, ducks, loons, robins (as large as blackbirds, and good eating), and humming birds.

"*July* 25.—I visited Rough Flat; a miner told me some were making an ounce a day per man.

"*Aug.* 7.—On board were two respectable-looking men. They were American miners returning home with a comfortable 'pile.' They both acknowledged this. I asked what was considered 'a pile.' From 3000 to 5000 dollars, was the reply: this was the result of two years' mining in British Columbia.

"*Aug.* 8.—My belief in the progress of the colony has been confirmed; there is no doubt now, upon any single mind, as to the vast resources and attractious in mineral wealth. There is considerable agricultural land in the lower portion of the Frazer, that is to say along the river up to Hope; on either side large tracts invite the farmer, more especially about the Chilewaak, the Pitt River, and Hope, to a fair return of capital and labour. Above this point the country is difficult of access, rough and mountainous, unless you get some fifty miles through the Cascade Range. Nothing could have opened this tract except its mineral produce. It would drive back the sturdiest traveller. It did send back, at the first, thousands, in poverty and despair.

"The appellation of all miners is 'boy;' their chief is 'cap.' All are called Dick, Tom, Harry. One man, a notorious character, was nicknamed *Liverpool Jack*. Men are not known by their real names. You inquire, as I have often done, the name of some one, and nobody knows his name; only he is called so-and-so, of such-and-such a bar.

I was speaking to a miner, who said he had just come from California, and with him had come a miner who had sold his claim there for 1800 dollars. I asked what the man's name was; he said he went by a nickname, 'Bam'—he knew not his real name. He had known in California instances of considerable difficulty arising from this. A man came into the country from the eastern States seeking his brother; his inquiries for Thomas Maguire produced no result; and he went away back to the States. Yet his brother was known and was working with those who had heard the inquiry, but they had not the least notion their friend, who had some apposite nickname, was really Thomas Maguire."

APPENDIX.

I.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE WORKING OF GOLD MINES, ISSUED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOLD FIELDS ACT, 1859.

WHEREAS it is provided by the Gold Fields Act, 1859, that the Governor, for the time being, of British Columbia, may, by writing under his hand and the public seal of the colony, make rules and regulations in the nature of by-laws for all matters relating to mining.

And whereas, in conformity with the said Act, certain rules and regulations have already been issued bearing date the 7th of September, 1859.

1. The mines in the said level benches shall be known as "bench diggings," and shall for the purpose of ascertaining the size of claims therein be excepted out of the class of "dry diggings," as defined in the rules and regulations of the 7th of September last.

2. The ordinary claims on any bench diggings shall be registered by the gold commissioner according to such one of the two following methods of measurement as he shall deem most advantageous on each mine, viz.: One hundred feet square, or else

a strip of land twenty-five feet deep at the edge of the cliff next the river, and bounded by two straight lines carried as nearly as possible in each case perpendicular to the general direction of such cliff across the level bench up to and not beyond the foot of the descent in the rear; and in such last mentioned case, the space included between such two boundary lines when produced over the face of the cliff in front as far as the foot of such cliff and no farther, and all mines in the space so included shall also form a part of such claim.

3. The gold commissioner shall have authority in cases where the benches are narrow, to mark the claims in such manner as he shall think fit, so as to include an adequate claim. And shall also have power to decide on the cliffs which, in his opinion, form the natural boundaries of benches.

4. The gold commissioner may in any mine of any denomination where the pay dirt is thin or claims in small demand, or where from any circumstances he shall deem it reasonable, allow any free miner to register two claims in his own name, and allow such period as he may think proper for non-working either one of such claims. But no person shall be entitled to hold at one time more than two claims of the legal size. A discoverer's claim shall for this purpose be reckoned as one ordinary claim.

5. All claims shall be subject to the public rights of way and water in such manner, direction, and extent as the gold commissioner shall from time to time direct; no mine shall be worked within ten

feet of any road, unless by the previous sanction of the gold commissioner.

6. In order to ascertain the quantity of water in any ditch or sluice, the following rules shall be observed, viz.:—

The water taken into a ditch shall be measured at the ditch head. No water shall be taken into a ditch except in a trough whose top and floor shall be horizontal planes, and sides parallel vertical planes; such trough to be continued for six times its breadth in a horizontal direction from the point at which the water enters the trough. The top of the trough to be not more than seven inches, and the bottom of the trough not more than seventeen inches, below the surface of the water in the reservoir, all measurements being taken inside the trough and in the low-water or dry season. The area of a vertical transverse section of the trough shall be considered as the measure of the quantity of water taken by the ditch.

II.

THE LAW OF LAND SALES IN THE COLONIES.

1. That from and after the date hereof (January 4th, 1860,) British subjects, and aliens who shall take the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty and Her successors, may acquire unoccupied and unreserved and unsurveyed Crown land in British Columbia

(not being the site of an existent or proposed town, or auriferous land available for mining purposes, or an Indian Reserve or Settlement), in fee simple, under the following conditions.

2. The person desiring to acquire any particular plot of land of the character aforesaid, shall enter into possession thereof and record his claim to any quantity not exceeding 160 acres thereof, with the magistrate residing nearest thereto, paying to the said magistrate the sum of eight shillings for recording such claim. Such piece of land shall be of a rectangular form, and the shortest side of the rectangle shall be at least two-thirds of the longest side. The claimant shall give the best possible description thereof to the magistrate with whom his claim is recorded, together with a rough plan thereof, and identify the plot in question by placing at the corners of the land four posts, and by stating in his description any other landmarks on the said 160 acres which he may consider of a noticeable character.

3. Whenever the Government survey shall extend to the land claimed, the claimant who has recorded his claim as aforesaid, or his heirs, or in case of the grant of certificate of improvement hereinafter mentioned, the assigns of such claimant, shall, if he or they shall have been in continuous occupation of the same land from the date of the record aforesaid, be entitled to purchase the land so pre-empted at such rate as may, for the time being, be fixed by

the Government of British Columbia, not exceeding the sum of ten shillings per acre.

4. No interest in any plot of land acquired as aforesaid, shall, before payment of the purchase money, be capable of passing to a purchaser unless the vendor shall have obtained a certificate from the nearest magistrate that he has made permanent improvements on the said plot to the value of ten shillings per acre.

5. Upon payment of the purchase money, a conveyance of the land purchased shall be executed in favour of the purchaser, reserving the precious minerals, with a right to enter and work the same in favour of the Crown, its assigns and licencees.

6. Priority of title shall be obtained by the person first in occupation, who shall first record his claim in manner aforesaid.

7. Any person authorised to acquire land under the provisions of this Proclamation, may purchase in addition to the land pre-empted in manner aforesaid, any number of acres not otherwise appropriated, at such rate as may be fixed by the Government, at the time when such land shall come to be surveyed, not to exceed ten shillings per acre; five shillings to be paid down, and the residue at the time of survey.

8. In the event of the Crown, its assigns or licencees, availing itself, or themselves, of the reservation mentioned in clause 5, a reasonable compensation for the waste and damage done, shall be paid by the

person entering and working, to the person whose land shall be wasted or damaged as aforesaid, and in case of dispute, the same shall be settled by a jury of six men, to be summoned by the nearest magistrate.

9. Whenever any person shall permanently cease to occupy land pre-empted as aforesaid, the magistrate resident nearest to the land in question may in a summary way, on being satisfied of such permanent cessation, cancel the claim of the person so permanently ceasing to occupy the same, and record the claim thereto of any other person satisfying the requisitions aforesaid.

10. The decision of the magistrate may be appealed by either party to the decision of the Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia.

11. Any person desirous of appealing in manner aforesaid, may be required, before such appeal be heard, to find such security as may be hereafter pointed out by the rules or orders hereinafter directed to be published.

12. The procedure before the magistrate and judge respectively, shall be according to such rules and orders as shall be published by such judge, with the approbation of the Governor for the time of British Columbia.

13. Whenever a person in occupation at the time of record aforesaid, and he, his heirs, or assigns, shall have continued in permanent occupation of land pre-empted or of land purchased as aforesaid,

he or they may, save as hereinafter mentioned, bring ejectment or trespass against any intruder upon the land so pre-empted or purchased, to the same extent as if he or they were seised of the legal estate in possession in the land so pre-empted or purchased.

14. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as giving a right to any claimant to exclude free miners from searching for any of the precious minerals, or working the same upon the conditions aforesaid.

15. The Government shall, notwithstanding any claim, record, or conveyance aforesaid, be entitled to enter and take such portion of the land pre-empted or purchased as may be required for roads or other public purposes.

16. Water privileges and the right of carrying water for mining purposes, may, notwithstanding any claim recorded, purchase or conveyance aforesaid, be claimed and taken upon, under or over the said land so pre-empted or purchased as aforesaid by free miners requiring the same, and obtaining a grant or licence from the gold commissioner, and paying a compensation for waste or damage to the person whose land may be wasted or damaged by such water privilege or carriage of water, to be ascertained in case of dispute in manner aforesaid.

17. In case any dispute shall arise between persons with regard to any land so acquired as aforesaid, any one of the parties in difference may (before ejectment or action of trespass brought) refer the question in difference to the nearest magistrate, who

is hereby authorized to proceed in a summary way to restore the possession of any land in dispute to the person whom he may deem entitled to the same, and to abate all intrusions, and award and levy such costs and damages as he may think fit.

III.

ANNO VICESIMO PRIMO & VICESIMO SECUNDO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. XCIX.

AN ACT to provide for the Government of *British Columbia.* [2d *August*, 1858.]

WHEREAS divers of her Majesty's subjects and others have, by the license and consent of her Majesty, resorted to and settled on certain wild and unoccupied territories on the north-west coast of *North America*, commonly known by the designation of *New Caledonia*, and from and after the passing of this Act to be named *British Columbia*, and the islands adjacent, for mining and other purposes; and it is desirable to make some temporary provision for the civil government of such territories, until permanent settlements shall be thereupon established, and the number of colonists increased: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

I. *British Columbia* shall, for the purposes of this Act, be held to comprise all such territories within the dominions of her Majesty as are bounded to the south by the frontier of the United States of *America*, to the east by the main chain of the *Rocky Mountains*, to the north by *Simpson's River* and the *Finlay* branch of the *Peace River*, and to the west by the *Pacific Ocean*, and shall include *Queen Charlotte's Island*, and all other islands adjacent to the said territories, except as hereinafter excepted.

II. It shall be lawful for her Majesty, by any order or orders to be by her from time to time made, with the advice of her Privy Council, to make, ordain, and establish, and (subject to such conditions or restrictions as to her shall seem meet) to authorize and empower such officer as she may from time to time appoint as Governor of *British Columbia*, to make provision for the administration of justice therein, and generally to make, ordain, and establish all such laws, institutions, and ordinances as may be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of her Majesty's subjects and others therein; provided that all such Orders in Council, and all laws and ordinances so to be made as aforesaid, shall be laid before both houses of Parliament as soon as conveniently may be after the making and enactment thereof respectively.

III. Provided always, That it shall be lawful for her Majesty, so soon as she may deem it convenient, by any such Order in Council as aforesaid, to constitute or to authorize and empower such officer to constitute a Legislature to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of *British Columbia*, such Legislature to consist of the Governor and a Council, or Council and Assembly, to be composed of such and so many persons, and to be appointed or elected in such manner and for such periods, and subject to such regulations, as to her Majesty may seem expedient.

IV. And whereas an Act was passed in the forty-third year of King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act for extending the jurisdiction of the Courts of Justice in the provinces of* Lower *and* Upper Canada, *to the trial and punishment of persons guilty of crimes and offences within certain parts of* North America *adjoining to the said Provinces*: And whereas by an Act passed in the second year of King *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for regulating the Fur Trade, and establishing a Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction within certain parts of* North America, it was enacted, that from and after the passing of that Act the Courts of Judicature then existing or which might be thereafter established in the Province of *Upper Canada* should have the same civil jurisdiction, power, and authority, within the *Indian* territories and other parts of *America* not within the limits of either of the provinces of *Lower* or *Upper Canada* or of any civil government of the *United States*, as the said Courts had or were invested with within the limits of the said provinces of *Lower* or *Upper Canada* respectively, and that every contract, agreement, debt, liability, and demand made, entered into, incurred, or arising within the said *Indian* territories and other parts of *America*, and every wrong and injury to the person or to property committed or done within the same, should be and be deemed to be of the same nature, and be cognizable and be tried in the same manner, and subject to the same consequences in all respects, as if the same had been made, entered into, incurred, arisen, committed or done within the said province of *Upper Canada;* and in the same Act are contained provisions for giving force, authority, and effect within the said *Indian* territories and other parts of *America* to the process and acts of the said Courts of *Upper Canada;* and it was thereby also enacted, that it should be lawful for his Majesty, if he should deem it convenient so to do, to issue a commission or commissions to any person or persons to be and act as Justices of the Peace within such parts of *America* as aforesaid, as well within any territories theretofore granted to the company of adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay* as within the *Indian* territories of such other parts of *America* as aforesaid; and it was further enacted, that it should be lawful for his Majesty from time to time by any commission under the Great Seal to authorize and empower any such persons so appointed Justices of the Peace as aforesaid to sit and hold Courts of Record for the trial of criminal offences and misdemeanours, and also of civil causes, and it should be lawful for his Majesty to order, direct and authorize the appointment of proper officers to act in aid of such courts and justices within the jurisdiction assigned to such courts and justices in any such commission; provided that such courts should not try any offender upon any charge or indictment for any felony made the subject of capital punishment, or for any offence or passing sentence affecting the life of any offender, or adjudge or cause any offender to suffer capital punishment or transportation, or take cognizance of or try any civil action or suit in which the cause of such suit or action should exceed in value the amount or sum of two hundred pounds, and in every case of any offence subjecting the person committing the same to capital punishment or transportation, the court, or any judge of any such court, or any justice or justices of the peace before whom any such offender should be brought, should commit such offender to safe custody, and cause such offender to be sent in such custody for trial in the court of the province of *Upper Canada*.

From and after the proclamation of this Act in *British Columbia* the said Act of the forty-third year of King *George* the Third, and the said recited provisions of the said Act of the second year of King *George* the Fourth, and the provisions contained in such Act for giving force, authority, and effect within the *Indian* territories and other parts of *America* to the process and acts of the said Courts of *Upper Canada*, shall cease to have force in and to be applicable to *British Columbia*.

V. Provided always, That all judgments given in any civil suit in *British Columbia* shall be subject to appeal to her Majesty in Council, in the manner and subject to the regulations in and subject to which appeals are now brought from the Civil Courts of *Canada*; and to such further or other regulations as her Majesty, with the advice of her Privy Council, shall from time to time appoint.

VI. No part of the colony of *Vancouver Island* as at present established, shall be comprised within *British Columbia* for the purpose of this Act; but it shall be lawful for her Majesty, her heirs and successors, on receiving at any time during the continuance of this Act a joint address from the two Houses of the Legislature of *Vancouver Island*, praying for the incorporation of that Island with *British Columbia*, by order to be made as aforesaid with the advice of her Privy Council, to annex the said island to *British Columbia*, subject to such conditions and regulations as to her Majesty shall seem expedient; and thereupon and from the date of the publication of such order in the said Island, or such other date as may be fixed in such order, the provisions of this Act shall be held to apply to *Vancouver Island*.

VII. In the construction of this Act the term "Governor" shall mean the person for the time being lawfully administering the government of *British Columbia*.

VIII. This Act shall continue in force until the thirty-first day of *December*, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and thenceforth to the end of the then next session of Parliament; provided always, that the expiration of this Act shall not affect the boundaries hereby defined, or the right of appeal hereby given, or any act done or right or title acquired under or by virtue of this Act, nor shall the expiration of this Act revive the Acts or parts of Acts hereby repealed.

IV.

THE *San Francisco Bulletin* of the 4th of June last furnishes a full vocabulary of the "Chinook Jargon," as used by the different Indian tribes on Frazer and Thompson Rivers and the surrounding country, with the equivalent terms in English. It is given in the Appendix as calculated to be of great use to miners and all parties traversing the Indian country on the north-west coast, who may have occasion to come in contact with the natives.

Nika—I.
Mika—You.
Klasker—They.
Mesiker—You (plural).
Tanas man—A boy.
Chaco—Come.
Momook—Work.
Klaawa—Go.

Kar—Where.
Yawa—Here.
Alta—At present.
Alke—Afterwards.
Illihe—Land.
Ahyak—Quick.
Siya—Distance.
Klakster—Who.

Klosh—Good.
Laport—Door.
Kouaway—All.
Sun—Day.
Poolakly—Night.
Tenas sun—Morning.
Sitkum sun—Noon.
Kakwa—The same.

Yoolkut—Long.
Hy-yon—Plenty.
Sockally—High.
Pilton—Fool.
Tekhope—White.
Pill—Red.
Klayl—Black.
Letete—Head.
Laposh—Mouth.
Leeda—Teeth.
Lelang—Tongue.
Secah-hoose—Face.
Lema—The hand.
Yaksoot—Hair.
Lareh—Barley.
Lepoah—Peas.
Wapito—Potatoes.
Ledowo—Turnips.
Lekarrot—Carrots.
Lesonion—Onions.
Kabbage—Cabbage.
Klapite—Thread.
Moola—Sawmill.
Perceoe—Blanket.
Kamoosack—Beads.
Poolally—Powder.
Kula-kulla—Birds.
Musket—A gun.
Ninamox—Otter.
Ena—Beaver.
Quanice—Whale.
Yulecco—Porpoise.
Oluck—Snake.
Soolee—Mouse.
Skad—Mole.
Lelo—Wolf.
Pish-pish—Cat.
Kuitan—A horse.
Moos-moos—A cow.
Lamuto—Sheep.
Namox—A dog.
Kushaw—A hog.
Kimta—Behind.
Shatsham—Swim.
Secapoose—Cap.
Leshawl—A shawl.
Pi—And.
Wichat—Also.
Dly Tupso—Hay.
Dly—Dry.
Tum-tum—Heart.
Comb—Comb.
Koory—Run.
Pilpil—Blood.
Lesap—Egg.
Lepole—Hen.
Lecock—Rooster.
Lapell—Spade.
Lapiosge—Hoe.
Leglow—Nail.

Lake—Lake.
Lachaise—Chair.
Kettle—A pot.
Oskan—A cup.
Lope—Rope.
Silux—Angry.
Sharty—Sing.
Mercie—Thanks.
Kinoose—Tobacco.
Chee—New.
Sunday—Sunday.
Pooh—Shoot.
Lolo—To carry.
Klawa—Slow.
Wagh—To spill.
Inti—Across.
Leprate—Priest.
Lejob—Devil.
Kapo—A relation.
Lepied—Foot.
Tee-owitt—Leg.
Yachoot—Belly.
Spose—If.
Delate—Straight.
Seepy—Crooked.
Tolo—Win.
Kow—Tie.
Klack—Untie.
Yaka—He.
Nesika—We.
Man—Man.
Klootchman—Woman.
Chuck—Water.
Lum—Rum.
Patle—Full.
Patlamb—Drunk.
Boston—American.
Pesioux—French.
Malo—None.
Husatchy—Bad.
Tyhee—Chief.
Elitee—Slave.
Ou—Brother.
Ats—Sister.
Kapswalla—Steal.
Ipsoot—Secret.
Patlatch—Give.
Iscum—Take.
Wake—No.
Nowitka—Yes.
Sookum—Strong.
Six—Friend.
Ikta—What.
Pechuck—Green.
Lemoro—Wild.
Daselle—Saddle.
Sitlii—Stirrup.
Lesibro—Spurs.
Kolan—Ear.
Klapp—To find.

Kull—Tough, hard.
Lapulla—The back.
Paplel—Wheat.
Sire saplel—Bread.
Labiscuit—Biscuit.
Laween—Oats.
Lice—Rice.
Sagwa—Sugar.
Soap—soap.
Molass—Molasses.
Stick shoes—Shoes.
Skin shoes—Mocassins.
Gleece Pire—Candle.
Skullapeen—A rifle.
Memoloose—Kill.
Aetshoot—Bear.
Mowitch—Deer.
Cuitchaddy—Rabbit.
Skubbyyou—Skunk.
Olikhiyou—Seal.
Yakolla—Eagle.
Waugh-waugh—Owl.
Skakairk—Hawk.
Mauk—Duck.
Smockmock—Grouse.
Malackua—Musquito.
Swaawa—Panther.
Skudzo—A squirrel.
Enpooy—Lice.
Lesway—Silk.
Lalopa—Ribbons.
Kapo—Coat.
Sickilox—Pantaloons.
Shirt—Shirt.
Aekik—A fish-hook.
Tootosh—Milk.
Snass—Rain.
Pithick—Thick.
Snow—Snow.
Lehash—An axe.
Laloem—File.
Opsu—A knife.
Leklee—Keys.
Pillom—A broom.
Lakutchee—Clams.
Lacassett—A trunk.
Tumclitch—A barrel.
Opkan—A basket.
Lepla—A plate.
Latuble—A table.
Laqueen—A saw.
Moosum—Sleep.
Cold illihe—Winter.
Warm illihe—Summer.
Cold—A year.
Ke waap—A hole.
Zum—Write.
Klemenwhit—False.
Klonass—Don't know.
Quass—Fear, afraid.

Olally—Berries.
Tzae—Sweet.
Tumalla—To-morrow.
Hee-hee—Laugh.
Moon—Moon.
Klakeece—Stars.
How—Listen, attend.
Sil-sil—Buttons.
Lapeep—Pipe.
Akaepooit—Needle.
Tin-tin—Music.
Tance—Dance.
Opootch—Tail.
Etlinwill—Ribs.
Ikt stick—A yard.
Elp—First.
Claylstone—Coal.
Lesack—A bag.
Newha—How is it?
Tanass Klootchman—A girl.
Tanass—A child, and anything small.
Wawa — Language, to speak.
Mamook Chaco—Bring.
Muck-Muck — Anything good to eat.
Pire-Chuck—Ardent spirits of any kind.
King George — English, Scotch, or Irish.
Laplosh — A shingle or plank.
Wake nika kumtux—I do not understand.
Dihe—Sandwich Islander.
Hyass—Large, or very large.
Till—Heavy, or tired.
Lazy—Slow, or lazy.
Hammock Ipsoot — To conceal.
Halluck Laport — Open the door.
kpooy Laport—Shut the door.
Klakany—Out of doors.
Midlight—Sit down, put down, or stay.
Midwhit—Stand up, get up, or move.
itkum—Middle, or half.
enas Poolakly—Sunset, or dusk.
ockshut — Fight, break, injure, &c.
akeskokum—Weak.
akekonsick—Never.
umtux—Understand.

Tikke—Want, desire, &c.
Ikta mika tikke — What do you want?
Okaok—This, or that.
Wake ikta nika tikke—I do not want anything.
Sow wash — Indian, savage.
Ankuty—Long ago.
Lay-lay—A long time.
Konsick—How much.
Makook—Buy or sell.
Kultis—Nothing, or gratis.
Kapitt—Finish, stop.
Kapitt wawa—Hold your tongue.
Kanitch—Look, to see.
Sockally Tyhee—The Almighty.
Neekwoolly — Deep, beneath.
Quonisum—Always.
Sick — Unwell, ill, sick, &c.
Lecreme—Cream-colour.
Leky — Spotted, or piebald.
Olo—Hungry, or thirsty.
Lapushmo — Saddle-blanket.
Chick chick—A wagon, or car.
Kull-kull stick—Oak.
Laplash stick—Cedar.
Legum stick—Pine.
Keleman Sapel—Flour.
Sale—Cotton, or calico.
Kanim—Canoe, or boat.
Klackan—A fence, a field.
Kalidon—Lead, or shot.
Chickaman—Metals of all kinds.
Chickaman shoes—Horse shoes.
Tanass Musket—A pistol.
Moolack or Moos—Elk.
Salmon or sallo-wack — Salmon.
Tanass Salmon—Trout.
Lemule ou Hyas kolon—Mule.
Man Moos-moos—An ox.
Tanass Moos-moos — A calf.
Henkerchim — Handkerchief.
Coat—A woman's gown.
Keekwully coat—A petticoat.

Keekwully Sickilox — Drawers.
Hachr ou House — A house.
Kata—Why, or what is the matter?
Whaah— (Exclamation of astonishment) Indeed.
Abba—Well then, or, If that is the case.
Luckwulla—A nut.
Tupso—Grass or straw.
Hoey-Hoey—Exchange.
Tootosh gleece—Butter.
Kquttilt—To collapse.
Glass—A looking-glass or window.
Koory kuitan — A race-horse.
Tanass Lakutchee—Mussels.
Koppa — From, towards, &c.
Chitch—Grandmother.
Kia Howya — How are you? or poor, pitiful.
Lapooelle—Frying-pan.
Appola—A roast of anything.
Quis-quis—A straw mat.
Makook house—A store.
Katsuck — Mid-day, between.
Oloman—An old man, or worn out.
Lemæi—An old woman.
Hyass Sunday — Christmas day and the 4th of July.
Pisheck—Bad, exhausted.
Paper—Paper, books, &c.
Zum seeahhoose — Paint the face.
Pire olally—Ripe berries.
Cold olally—Cranberries.
Fiil olally—Strawberries.
Lapiaege — A trap or snare.
Miami—Down the stream, below.
Machlay — Towards the land.
Staetijay—Island.
Aalloyma — Another, or different.
Hee-hee-lema—Gamble.
Killapie—Return, or capsize.
Kloch-Klock—Oysters.
Lawoolitch—A bottle.

Annah	Exclamation of astonishment.
Sick tum tum	Regret, sorrow.
Kooy-Kooy	Finger-rings.
Hrowikult	Stubborn.
Tlehsucly	Although.
Tamanawas	Witchcraft.
Owaykeet	A road.
Ikt	1.
Mox	2.
Klone	3.
Locket	4.
Quinum	5.
Tahum	6.
Sinimox	7.
Sotkin	8.
Quiee	9.
Tallum	10.
Tallum pi ikt	11.
Tallum pi mox	12.
Tallum-tallum or Ikt Takamonak	100.
Ikt hyas Takamonak	1000.
Stowebelow	North.
Stogwalt	South.
Sun Chako	East.
Sun Midlight	West.

V.

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VI.

A WRITER in one of the Vancouver Island journals received by the last mail, justly observes:—

"British Columbia, at the era of her gold discoveries—and even at the present—differed from both of those great gold countries. She was nothing but an interminable wilderness when the gold excitement commenced in 1858. Around a few of the wide-spread forts of the Hudson Bay Company there were a few evidences of agriculture, but the amount of labour invested annually in agriculture was merely nominal. The white men and Indians who lived in the country may, for all practical purposes, be said to have lived by hunting and the chase. With the influx of immigrants came also the demand for supplies of food, and as nothing but fish or game could be had, of necessity, with these exceptions, every article of food, whether necessaries or luxuries, had to be brought from abroad. The search for gold has, during the four years past, occupied industry entirely. Only a few—very few—persons have engaged in agriculture; so few, indeed, that the total value of agricultural produce for 1861 cannot exceed $20,000. We even think that a high estimate, though the labour invested this year in agricultural improvements may be much more. As a set-off to this small gain by agriculture, we may safely assume that this year $500,000 have been spent for food for men and animals, and sent abroad, enriching our neighbours. We might with safety increase the estimate; but this is sufficiently large to show what tribute British Columbia is paying annually to the agriculturists of the neighbouring States merely for subsistence. It shows what an advantage our mineral industry is to our neighbours, and what a loss British Columbia is annually sustaining. Her gold is taken out of her hills; is exchanged for food; the food is consumed; and yet all that the country can show for it is the discovery of new gold fields, the construction of trails, and the possession of a few thousands of miners. These results were unavoidable in a great degree. They may compensate for the temporary poverty they entail, the drain on our chief export, gold. But if we pursue a similar course year after year, when the cream of our gold fields is taken away, we will be forced to fall back on agriculture as a leading branch of industry, and at a time when the inducements to engage in it may not be so attractive to immigrants as at present. It will be long before the infant manufactures of the country will make any perceptible diminution in the imports. Mines, whether gold, silver, copper, or coal, and agriculture will, for many years be the only kinds of productive labour with which we can maintain our commerce. From these two branches of industry British Columbia will have to pay off the annual indebtedness created by her imports. The exchangeable commodity will be mineral wealth, and agricultural produce should be largely consumed in creating that kind of exchange. Such is evidently her true industrial policy at the present time. No other policy can create permanent wealth. Fabulously rich gold fields may for a time build up cities, construct roads, and fill our ports with shipping and commerce, while dependent on our neighbours for food. But to be really prosperous, really independent, really powerful and wealthy, agriculture has to feed the whole population; and to feed them, agriculture has to be encouraged and developed as the basis of the high road to moral and intellectual excellence—to wealth itself.

"The mineral wealth of British Columbia is a powerful inducement to engage in the cultivation of the soil. It will attract annually, for many years to come, thousands of immigrants, all of whom have to be fed; and, except fed with domestic produce, the cost of living will be materially increased. Without protection enforced by law, the farmer who settles on Thompson's River or farther north towards Alexandria, will be protected in his market by the distance which produce will have to be brought to compete with him. If it is brought from California, its distance will be from 1000 to 1500 miles. If from Oregon, 500 to 800 miles. If from Vancouver Island, 150 to 500 miles. The cost of transportation to a shipping point, and the freight on the route to the place of consumption, are enormous, a huge profit of itself, and a better protection to agricultural industry in British Columbia than a high protective tariff levied on purpose. The duty of ten per cent. levied at New Westminster adds still more to the protection afforded to the farmer. But the greatest protection of all is the distance from all foreign farmers. It is useless to urge the superabundance of produce in the markets of California and Oregon, and its cheapness. It is impossible for them to compete. The expense of transportation is so great, that nothing but the entire absence of agriculture in central and northern British Columbia allows an ounce of California and Oregon produce to reach the mines. The moment that domestic produce is raised in sufficient quantities to supply the demand, that moment the importation of foreign produce will cease.

"We estimate that British Columbia has lost this year $500,000 and over, simply through the want of agricultural industry. That sum itself would provide 500 farmers with an annual profit of $1000 each, which is far greater than miners usually average. If to such a profit the farmer were to add the value of his labour expended in improvements and the increase in the value of his property through the increase of the population, his profits would be doubled. But this is merely farming on a small scale. The opportunity is afforded to farm on a grand scale to all who have capital, enterprise, and industry. The prospects of the country warrant such enterprise. If, however, farmers are so practical that they only wish to invest their labour and capital on the prospect which the present market affords, let them look at the current prices of produce in the mines. Davidson's ranch supplies vegetables at 8 cents per lb.; hay, 10 cents per lb.; barley and oats, 30 cents. If carried into the mines 80 miles, say to the Forks of Quesnelle, vegetables are worth 25 cents per lb.; barley and oats, 50 cents; butter, $1.50; bacon, 75 cents. The profit that can be made at such rates as these promises as lucky strikes as Lowhee or Antler Creeks."

The *Canadian News* of the 10th of April, 1862, announces that "the articles contributed by Vancouver Island for the Exhibition of 1862, will be placed to-day on board the schooner *Meg Merrilies*, for Barclay Sound, whence they will be shipped on the *Pocahontas*, to leave that point in about six weeks for London. The articles contributed comprise specimens of minerals, fossils, produce, timber, Indian manufactures, &c., and, on the whole, cannot fail in proving a highly interesting collection and must attract attention. His Excellency the Governor has appointed the under-mentioned gentlemen as a Commission to represent the interests of Vancouver Island at the Exhibition:—John Lindley, F.R.S.; Alfred John Langley, Esq., member of the Legislative Council in this colony; and Richard Charles Maguire, Esq., Commander Royal Navy. There will be, all told, about sixteen tons of goods forwarded from this colony, six tons of which will be of Nanaimo and Newcastle coal."

THE END.

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